



### **Part Seven: Transfiguration**

The way in which Jesus claimed he would accomplish his mission was so unexpected that not even his closest followers could accept it...at first. Jesus' message and his methods are so counterintuitive that it can be hard to imagine believing, let alone imitating them.

**Scripture:** Mark 9:2-8

**Bottom Line:** Listening to Jesus means that we accept the way of the cross as the way of God and the way of God's people.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. If you found yourself in a position of power and influence in government or society, how would you use your power? What would you want the characteristics of your leadership to be? What values or principles would you make sure guided how you led?
2. Read Mark 8:31-9:1. Jesus teaches that he must suffer and be crucified. Why do you think Peter rebukes him for this? What are some of the reasons that it is seemingly absurd for God's chosen leader to be killed?
3. How does Jesus' explanation of why he will be crucified (verses 34-38) help us understand why He must be crucified?
4. What are some characteristics of Jesus that are evident in his willingness to go to the cross (ex: selflessness, sacrificial love, etc.)? In what ways are these things countercultural when it comes to our idea of what a leader should do or be like?
5. The cross is not only something Jesus bears, but what he calls all of his followers to bear as well. What do you think it means to deny yourself and take up your cross-based on the context of this passage and what Jesus teaches and models for us?

### **Moving Forward**

Are there any situations that you are facing in your life that you need to approach in a more Christ-like (cross-like) way? If Jesus calls us to follow his example of giving himself up for others, how could you live that out in practical ways?