



# The Gospel of Mark

**Leader Guide:** Week 17, Mark 9:2-50

## INTRODUCTION

Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, (Mark 8:27-30) is the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Up until then, being one of Jesus’ disciples was fairly easy. From this point on, Jesus begins teaching His disciples about His cross (Mark 8:31) and theirs (Mark 8:34-35). However, the disciples are looking for status and perks in Jesus’ kingdom. Jesus is teaching success in His kingdom is often opposite to the world’s definition of success.

## PRAYER

### READ

Ask two group members to read Mark 9:2-50

## SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn’t summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you were immediately overwhelmed and you didn’t really know what to say, but you started talking anyway? What happened and what did you say?
  
2. All three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) record Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah). Why do you think all three also record the transfiguration of Jesus ?
  
3. Why do you think Moses and Elijah were chosen to speak to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration?

## N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 5:13-14, 5:29-30; Luke 9:28-35;

## O.T. FURTHER READING

Deut. 18:15; Psalm 22:1-18; Malachi 4:1-6

## FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

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4. Read Mark 9:14-24. Jesus challenges the faith of the distraught father who had brought his son to the disciples. Share a time or a situation in your life that challenged your faith in Jesus? When have you echoed this father's prayer, "I do believe; help my unbelief?" What was the result?

5. In Mark 9:33-50 Jesus challenges His disciples' ideas of status and success in His kingdom. How does Jesus correct His disciples about their position in His kingdom (9:33-37)? What was wrong about John's thinking in 9:38-42?

6. In 9:43-50 we learn discipleship involves sacrifice. Jesus uses very graphic imagery to emphasize the seriousness of sin. What sacrifice(s) is Jesus calling you to make as His disciple?

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**RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*Personal:* Where are you currently in a situation where you would say "I do believe; help my unbelief?" How can others be praying for you?

*Church:* How can we encourage each other to serve Christ rather than letting the world's view of status and success creep into our lives (Mark 9:33-50)?

*World:* In what area of your life do you need to prayerfully sacrifice to honor God and be a good witness at home, in your neighborhood or at work?

**PRAY TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:**

Mark 9:35



