



LIFEGROUPS STUDY GUIDE

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

SERIES:

Mark

MESSAGE TITLE:

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

MESSAGE DATE:

04/06/2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Pastor Matt's message focuses on the theme of misunderstanding surrounding Jesus' identity, as illustrated in Mark chapters 6, 7, and 8. Despite performing miraculous acts, Jesus often instructs others to keep his identity a secret, emphasizing that he wants to shape what happens in people's hearts before revealing his true nature. We discussed four reasons for this secrecy, including practical, timing, safety, and focus reasons, ultimately highlighting that Jesus desires to work within us rather than merely address our external needs. The message invites listeners to reflect on their relationship with Jesus, encouraging them to consider what God wants to do in them and to let go of their expectations in order to embrace his purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1.) Why do you think Jesus was constantly misunderstood by people around him, including his closest disciples?

Pastor Matt discussed how Jesus was frequently misunderstood and how that theme spans Mark chapters 6 to 8.

Can you think of a time when you've felt misunderstood? How did you handle that situation?

2.) What do you think is the significance of Peter declaring Jesus as the Messiah in Mark 8:27, yet Jesus instructing him not to tell anyone?

In the sermon, Pastor Matt explained how Jesus affirmed Peter's understanding but still wanted to keep his identity a secret for a time.

Have you ever felt like you knew something important but were told to keep it to yourself? How did that feel?

3.) How do practical reasons, timing reasons, and safety reasons contribute to understanding why Jesus kept his identity a secret?

Pastor Matt outlined four reasons, including practical and timing reasons, for why Jesus wanted to keep his identity hidden.

How can understanding these reasons help you in your own life when you find yourself needing to be patient or discreet?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

4.) What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus, as mentioned in Mark 8:34?

Pastor Matt highlighted that this invitation comes after Peter's declaration and suggests a deeper commitment to Jesus' mission.

What does taking up your cross look like for you personally? Are there sacrifices you might need to make?

5.) Why might it be important for us to focus more on what Jesus wants to do in us rather than just what He can do for us?

Pastor emphasized that focusing on Jesus' work in us can lead to deeper faith and understanding, rather than seeing Him only as a problem solver.

Can you identify any expectations you have of Jesus that might distract you from growing in your relationship with Him?