



# UNDERSTANDING JESUS AND WHO WE ARE IN HIM

**FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE  
TERM 1 2021 WEEK 5  
SUFFERING KING**

## DATE

Sunday 28th Feb 2021

## BIBLE READING

Mark 8:22 - 9:1

## BIG IDEA

Jesus's disciples see He is more than a prophet but fail to see he is Christ the suffering king, and so fail to understand that following Jesus means walking in his steps – in suffering, service, and sacrifice for the kingdom.

## KIDS BIG IDEA

The disciples have a blurry picture of Jesus as God's promised king, but don't understand he must suffer to save them.

## KIDS APPLICATION

Being a disciple means choosing to do what God wants even when it's hard.

## KEY VERSE

Mark 8:34 - "Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples. He said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me."

## QUICK VIEW

Our bible reading from Mark this week starts with a blind man brought to Jesus for healing. At first, the man's sight is blurry. Jesus touches the man's eyes and his vision is clear. Next we see that Jesus' disciples have a blurry understanding of Jesus and his message. Peter gets it right when he says that Jesus is the Messiah, but he can't accept what Jesus tells them about His coming death and resurrection. Jesus then gives some clear challenges for his disciples.

## MOMENTS

Jesus makes it clear that even though He is God's son, His calling includes pain and suffering. So being His disciple means choosing to do what God wants even when it's hard. We all need to be reminded and encouraged to not sidestep or back off from the difficult aspects of discipleship.

## PRAYER

Dear God, please help us to follow the example of Jesus and to choose to do what you want, even when it's hard.

## KEY SONGS

Jesus is the mighty, Mighty King – Colin Buchanan  
Isaiah 53:6 – Colin Buchanan.

# REFLECT

As parents, encourage your family to personally reflect on the Bible passage, and what it means for them. Try to guide this so it lands close to the big idea.

## EARLY YEARS

Draw a picture of what they think a king or queen looks like (or show them pictures of real kings and queens).

**Discuss what you think they do.**

**Do you think Jesus was like a normal king, or was he different?**

## KIDS

**What are kings normally like?**

**How is Jesus different?**

**What one thing about Jesus is most special to you?**

## YOUTH

**Why do you think it was so difficult for the disciples to understand that to ‘win’, Jesus had to ‘lose’?**

**Why do you think God planned for Jesus to go through suffering and death? What does this tell us about God and Jesus?**

## PRAY

Thankyou, God, that Jesus didn’t just do the easy things, but he was prepared to suffer and die so we could be forgiven and be part of His family. Help us to follow Jesus’ example and to do the things you want us to do, even if they’re hard to do.

# REACT

As parents, encourage your family to see how they are reacting emotionally to the Bible passage. Engage emotionally and bring it before God.

## EARLY YEARS

**What are some of the kind things Jesus did in what we read from the Bible today?**

**What are some kind things we can do to be more like Jesus?**

## KIDS & YOUTH

Ask kids for a word or words, to describe Jesus (e.g King, Saviour, Messiah).

If they don't use words like "servant/sufferer" bring them up and discuss how sometimes we forget that these are also important traits of Jesus.

**How do you feel when you realise Jesus suffered so you could be forgiven?**

## PRAY

Thankyou, God, for the difficult things Jesus did so we could be forgiven. Thankyou for the great love you have shown. Help us to love you as we should, and to love others as you do.

# RELATE

As parents, encourage your family to share honestly, and listen deeply to how one another are growing as disciples. Parents it will be important for you to model honesty and vulnerability as you answer these questions, so your kids know they can do the same. Allow time for everyone to reflect and answer each question openly and honestly. Make sure you listen well to one another, and pray from the heart.

## FAMILIES

Funny Feelings Game: (pg. 30 of Theme Games book)

Load an empty pillowcase with about 10-15 things (Toothbrush, comb, pencil, ball, nail brush, marble, spoon, cork, clothes peg, etc) and tie the neck so no one can see the contents. (Have a few identical pillowcases if you have a big group.)

Give each person a short time (say, 1 minute) to feel the bag, then have them make a list of what they think the contents are.

Then open the pillowcase and show the contents.

**What was it like, trying to recognise things when you could not see them?**

**How do you think the blind man felt when Jesus healed him?**

**What does it mean to be “spiritually blind”?**

**What things did Jesus’ disciples find hard to understand?**

## PRAY

Dear God, thankyou for the gift of sight. Please help us to “see” the things you want us to know, and to understand what Jesus has done for us.

# RESPOND

As parents, encourage your family to work out real and practical ways they can respond to God in light of the Bible passage. Land the application in this section.

## EARLY YEARS

Follow the Leader – “Simon Says” style game where the person in charge is wearing a crown (because they are the king).

**Talk about how we are to follow Jesus because he is the king.**

## KIDS

**Have you ever had to give something up for your brother, sister or friend?**

**How did it make you feel? Was it worth it? Why/Why not?**

**How does that compare with what Jesus has done for you?**

## YOUTH

**If we are called to follow Jesus, and he suffered, how should we approach tough things in our own lives?**

Look at verse 34.

**What does it mean to pick up your cross and follow Jesus?**

Jesus knows suffering. He knows what you’re going through too.

## PRAY

Dear God, please help us to follow the example of Jesus and to choose to do what you want, even when it’s hard.

# REVIEW

As parents, encourage your family to review the Bible passage for the week. This section tries to find a way to engage with the passage in a different way.

## EARLY YEARS

Make a mind map of words that describe who Jesus is (e.g. Powerful, Saviour, Healer, Christ, God's Son, Immanuel, Redeemer)

Then play charades.

Have one person choose one of the words and act it out to see who is the first to guess the word correctly.

Then talk about the word, what it means, and what it tells us about Jesus, before going on to the next word.

## PRAY

Dear God, please help us to follow the example of Jesus and to choose to do what you want, even when it's hard.

## YOUTH

Have a look at some parts of the Old Testament that tell us what Jesus was going to be like and what He was going to do.

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and see how many things it tells us about Jesus. And this was written about 700 years before it all happened!

How do these things relate to this week's bible passage in Mark?



# HI FAMILIES!

Family Discipleship is kind of a big deal. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 instructs parents to make God front and centre in home life; talking with children, impressing upon them and working with them at all times of the day and night. Put simply a parent's primary ministry is to raise their children to be disciples of Jesus.

For some of you it's already a regular part of the rhythm of your family's week; keep up the good work. Some of you will feel like you could be doing better; keep on trying, practice builds confidence and competence. And some of you feel overwhelmed and don't know where to start; that's ok, your church family is here to help.

Our prayer is that this Family Discipleship Guide will give you some helpful tools in developing a weekly rhythm of discipleship practices to help you and your family to grow together in love and service of God.

We've broken the guide in into 5 parts each with its own specific way of engaging the bible passage that week:

**REFLECT** encourages family members to reflect on the bible passage and what it means to them.

**REACT** engages your emotions and helps bringing those reactions before God.

**RELATE** encourages families to share honestly, and listen deeply to how one another are growing as disciples.

**RESPOND** helps families to work out real and practical ways they can respond to God in light of the weekly bible passage.

**REVIEW** encourages families to review the bible passage for the week and engage with it in a different way.

You might like to use these as 5 separate daily devotions, OR you might like to group some of the sections together to make a couple of family devotional times but leave yourself room to use other resources you've found elsewhere. Remember these are a collection of tools, not rules, for family discipleship.

Don't forget to show us how your family are discipling one another by sharing your photos and reflections on our social media pages with the hashtag #WeAreLivingChurch.