

**One truth shared:** Jesus confronts our deepest issues to provide confidence in following him boldly.

*But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”*

**Mark 8:33**

## What Really Matters to God

As you get older, adults will start to open up to you more. When they do, you realize the people you looked up to are just as human as anyone else. They have their own hopes, dreams, weaknesses, frailties, and fears. It is a bit unnerving, especially when they start to talk about matters of life and death, their own mortality. It is scary and sad to think about a time when those adults closest to you will no longer be around. Wouldn't it be better if they stayed with you on this earth forever?

Jesus spent every day with his disciples. He was their teacher, friend, and family. Then Jesus began to explain to them that he had to suffer, be rejected, be killed, and rise again. Peter heard all the negative and rebuked Jesus. He didn't want anything to happen to Jesus. Peter wanted Jesus to stay forever right there with them. Peter missed the mention of “rising again” from the dead. Peter's concerns were short term and missed the magnitude of Jesus' purpose.

Jesus rebuked Peter because he was emotionally intertwined with only human concerns. Jesus directs Peter and us to the mind of God. People can't save themselves. People on their own will wander and die eternally. Jesus' sacrifice would bring life and immortality to life. The suffering would be worth it.

Jesus knows what is better than what we want. Our hope of the resurrection provides confidence to have some of those difficult conversations on deep matters. We know following Jesus isn't easy but there is victory over sin, death and the devil that will carry us through.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, I thank you for facing the consequences of my sin willingly and without fear. There are times I'd rather shrink back from talking about all you've done. Please embolden my faith. Bless me with confidence in you. Thank you for providing what I need when I need it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

## Year B – Lent 2

### Rethinking Religion

**One truth shared:** Jesus confronts our deepest issues to provide confidence in following him boldly.

## What Really Matters to God

***Starting the Discussion:** This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

With Easter about a month away, it's time to start thinking about inviting an unchurched friend to see what your faith is based on—the empty tomb! But there are many things that can get in the way of a simple invite. Take a moment (get creative!) to brainstorm all the ways an invite can flop.

***Connecting:** This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

Sometimes we miss the opportunity to share Jesus or invite people to church out of fear. What is the worst that can happen? Is it worth that risk?

***Digging In:** Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Read Mark 8:31-38. Jesus predicts his death and the way of the cross.
- What details did Jesus share about his plan and purpose? (v. 31)
- Why do you think Jesus' words in verse 31 would be so difficult for Peter to hear? (Attachment to their teacher/friend. Fear of what could happen to them. Wanting more moments of earthly glory without any more pain.)
- How does Jesus' question in verse 36 help us further understand what Peter was wrestling with? (People want to hold onto the things of this world so much that they miss the great thing that Jesus came to provide.)
- Discuss what personally leads you to remain quiet about Jesus/the Bible/God. (Think of the opposite of everything in v. 34 or the things mentioned in 35-37.)
- Which verse from our section provides you confidence to share Jesus next time you have the opportunity? (v. 33,35)

***Conclusion:** Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

- Create a list of three names and faces you would consider inviting to church at Easter. If comfortable, share one of them with the group and tell why that person is important to you.

- Let's pray for all the names on our list together. Let's ask God for the opportunity and boldness to share an invite.