

# Parent Passage Guide

## Mark 8:1–38

### Note to Parents

- **Context:** In Mark 8, Jesus feeds a Gentile crowd, heals a blind man in stages, and reveals to His disciples that being the Messiah requires suffering. The disciples, much like the blind man, only have a partial understanding of Jesus until they grasp that true discipleship means taking up a cross like His.
  - **Practical Tip:** Keep the conversation focused on the reality that following Jesus isn't about personal comfort, but about trusting His plan even when it runs counter to what we want.
- 

### For Younger Children (Under 12)

**The Big Picture:** Jesus showed His friends that following Him means trusting His plan, even when it is hard to understand. Just like a blind man Jesus healed in two steps, it takes time for us to see clearly what it really means to live God's way.

**The Bottom Line:** Following Jesus means trusting Him with our whole lives, not just the easy parts.

### Read & Understand:

- Peter got upset when Jesus said He had to suffer. Have you ever felt mad or confused when a plan didn't go the way you wanted it to?
- Jesus told His followers they need to "take up their cross," which means giving up our own selfishness.. What is one selfish thing you can give up today to follow Jesus?

**Daily Application:** This week, practice giving up your own way by letting a sibling or friend choose the game you play at recess or at home, remembering that Jesus asks us to put others first.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to truly love. Please help us to trust You and follow Your way, even when we really want things to go our own way. Amen.

---

### **For Teenagers (Ages 12-16)**

**The Real-World Connection:** Jesus' call to "take up your cross" directly challenges today's culture of self-promotion, where gaining the whole world—through follower counts, influencer status, or perfect social media curation—is treated as the ultimate goal. Holding tightly to our own reputation at all costs actually causes us to lose the very soul of who we are meant to be.

#### **Discussion Points:**

- Jesus rebuked Peter because Peter was focused on human ideas of success instead of God's plan. Where do you feel the most pressure with your friends, at school, or online to prioritize looking successful over doing what is actually right?
- Jesus asked what you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul. What does "gaining the whole world" look like in your friend group today, and what are the hidden costs of chasing that?
- In the first century, taking up a cross meant facing public shame and rejection from your peers. What is a realistic social risk you might have to take to truly live out your faith this week?

**The Challenge:** Look at your life and schedule this week: identify one area where you are exhausted from trying to maintain a certain image or reputation.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Courage to face the fear of missing out or social rejection.
- Clarity to see where cultural pressures are shaping our priorities more than Jesus is.
- Strength to prioritize our spiritual health over our social standing.