Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Mark 8:34-38

Course Correction

Getting Started

What was the favorite gift you **gave** this Christmas? Why?

Background

- **Read Mark 8:31-33**. What does Jesus predict will soon happen to him?
- How did Peter respond?
- Why do you think Jesus rebuked Peter so sharply?

Digging In

1. **Read Mark 8:34-38.** According to Jesus, what are the requirements for anyone who wants to become one of his disciples?
2. Explain each of the key phrases in v. 34:
   a. *Deny himself*
   b. *Take up his cross*
   c. *Follow me*

3. How can a person lose his life by saving it? (v. 35)
4. How can a person find his life by losing it? (v. 35)
5. How does Jesus emphasize his point further in verses 36-37?
6. Put v. 38 in your own words.
7. How can this passage help us live as fully devoted followers of Christ?

Getting Personal

- Looking back on 2015, in what ways was the truth of v. 34 evident in the way you lived your life?
- Looking forward to 2016, what would have to change in your life for v. 34 to be more fully true of you?
- In what area of your life do you think God is prompting you to take a new step of obedience?