

## Small Group Material

### Seeing things differently: achievement

#### Welcome (10 mins)

What is the most courageous thing you have ever done in your life?  
How did you feel before and after the event?

#### Worship (10 mins) Cornerstone:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

Spend a short time as a group in prayer, thanking God for who He is.

**Word** (30 mins) Mark 8 :31 – 38 Read slowly, pause for a minute and read the passage again.

- What initial thoughts or questions comes to your mind when you read this passage?
- Who are 'them' in verse 31?
- What did the cross mean to first-century people? To people today? To you?
- Read Matthew 4:10. What is the connection between that verse and verse 33 in our passage? What do you make of that connection?
- Why do you think Peter felt so strongly about Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death?

#### Optional Additional Questions

- *This is the first of Jesus' three "passion predictions" (8:31; 9:31; 10:33). What is important about Jesus making these predictions?*
- *What kinds of people is Jesus going to be rejected by?*

- What is the connection between verses 31-33 where Jesus predicts his own suffering and death, and verses 34-38 where Jesus calls his disciples to a life of self-denial and bearing the cross?
- What does 'take up your cross' mean for you personally, for us at St Mary's as a Church?
- How has your relationship with Jesus affected your expectations, aspirations and priorities? What do you stand to lose by following Christ? What do you stand to gain?

#### Witness (20 mins)

If you have not prayed recently for Open Doors, you might like to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters as they 'take up their cross daily' for their faith.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/prayer-ministry/>

Spend time praying for one persecuted country:

- for courage and God's strength as they face daily persecution
- for God to provide for their needs, emotionally, spiritually, physically
- for the Leaders of the country, that God will soften their hearts

Play this beautiful rendering of the hymn whose chorus, 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus', is so familiar. Consecrate yourselves to Jesus again

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTZtKoAwf0U>

*Jesus said, When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself.* In 12.32 As we approach Easter, let us pray that God will draw people to himself over this season. Screen share the painting below. Then, in prayer, ask God to lay on your hearts 3 people to particularly pray for during Lent. You could put their names in the Zoom chat. Maybe, one person could pray for the members of the group, to be in some way, a 'Secret Pastor' for these people.

#### Christ Carrying the Cross

TITIAN (TIZIANO VECELLIO)

