

Mark 8: 31-38

Here we are getting a unique glimpse as Jesus begins to talk about what is about to happen on Easter.

For a moment, picture yourself in this place. You listen to a respected teacher speaking against things that you have always been told from the religious leaders. What is your reaction?

How close is it to what Peter does?

What would you expect his response to be?

After that moment with Peter, Jesus addresses the crowd. It is here that we read one of the lines that is most recognizable 'let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

What do you think it means when Jesus says to deny themselves?

What would it look like to deny yourself?

What about when he says to take up their cross and follow him. Beyond a reference to the upcoming torture and death penalty that Jesus is going to receive, what do you think this means to the average listener?

What about in today's context?