

March 15, 2026

Title: Predicted

Passage: Mark 8:31-38; 9:30-37; 10:32-45

LEADER TIPS: *This week there is a lot of discussion content. REMEMBER the goal isn't to "cover everything" but rather to open the bible together and encourage biblical discussion with prayer that leads to transformation. Maybe your group will just cover one passage – great! For some groups you will spend a lot of time getting everyone aligned on the 21 day prayer and fasting commitment. This is a special time leading up to Easter and could be a great short season of connection for your group even if you take time off around spring break.*

Icebreaker: When you think about Easter growing up, what stands out most from your experience or tradition?

As a church we are committing to **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting** leading up to Easter. Share together, and as a leader start off my modeling involvement. Assume everyone is participating.

- What is one thing you are giving up during these 21 days to remember Jesus's sacrifice?
- What time in the morning are you praying our Declaration Prayer? How is that going?
- Who is available to join me this Sunday for our 15-minute before service prayer?

First "prediction" of his coming crucifixion

Read: Mark 8:31-38

Jesus clearly predicts his suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. But Peter rejects this idea because it doesn't fit his expectations of how God should work.

Key Idea: Following Jesus means choosing Jesus's way rather than my way.

- Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus after hearing this prediction?
- Jesus says, "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." What are some ways we can approach life from a human perspective instead of God's perspective?
- Why is it so hard at times to know if we are coming at things from our perspective or God's? How do you or could you figure out the difference?
- Jesus calls his followers to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. What do you think Jesus means by "deny yourself"?

Second "prediction" of his coming crucifixion

Read: Mark 9:30-37

Right after predicting his death again, the disciples begin arguing about who is the greatest. Jesus responds by placing a child among them. In the ancient world, children had little social status. Welcoming them meant welcoming someone who could offer you nothing in return.

Key Idea: Following Jesus means choosing to be hospitable to the overlooked.

- Why do you think the disciples were arguing about greatness right after Jesus predicted his death?
- Jesus says, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.” What does this reveal about what Jesus values?
- Who are the “low-status” or overlooked people in our culture today?
- What does “hospitality” look like practically in our lives today? (**leaders note:** help people move beyond “cook meals”, hospitality isn’t “serving food” it is “having time, space and intentionality to welcome those around us into our homes, lives and prayers.”)

Third “prediction” of his coming crucifixion

Read: Mark 10:32-45

For the third time, Jesus predicts his suffering and death. Immediately afterward, James and John ask for positions of honor. Jesus responds by redefining greatness as becoming a servant.

Key Idea: Following Jesus means choosing service as greatness.

- How does our culture typically define greatness or success?
- How is Jesus’s definition of greatness different?
- What is one practical way you could choose service over status this week?