

THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Gospel of Mark A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION EIGHT

Mark 8:11-9:8

Questions for Session Eight

1. Why do you suppose the Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign from heaven? Why did Jesus respond in that manner? Do we often look for a miraculous sign in the twenty-first century? How have you experienced signs and miracles?
2. What did Jesus mean when he told the disciples to watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod?
3. What illustrations did Jesus use to explain to the disciples that they simply did not understand *the big picture* after all their time with him? What contemporary illustrations could we use that would be classified as miraculous signs?

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4. Discuss the healing of the blind man. Why do you suppose they brought him to Jesus? What is the significance of this episode to Jesus' healing ministry?

5. Why do you think Jesus began asking his disciples about his identity? When Jesus narrowed the audience to the disciples, why do you think Peter was the one to answer the question?

6. Did the disciples understand Jesus' teaching in v. 31? What was Peter's response, and what motivated his response to this teaching?

7. Explain the significance of Jesus' response to Peter's rebuking him. Why is this an important lesson for us? How can we grow from this?

8. What does *deny himself* mean to you? How do the words about *taking up the cross* become distorted in our culture?

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