

BOTTOM LINE:

True life is knowing and following Jesus.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Student Notebooks

optional icebreaker: fortunately, unfortunately...

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a story game. Someone will supply a prompt (ex. "John arrived at the airport") and the person to the right of the prompt giver will continue the story by starting their sentence with "Fortunately...". The next person will continue the story by saying "Unfortunately...". The story continues until everyone feels the story is complete (or it has devolved into chaos).

hear from God through His Word.

DO THIS: Read **Mark 8:34-38** as a group and then lead your students in a discussion about the passage using the questions below.

- Tell your students to open their Bibles to **Mark 8:34-38** and then have someone read it out loud for the group.
- **ASK:** *What stood out to you in this passage? Why?*
- **ASK:** *What does Jesus say those who want to follow Him must do?*
- **ASK:** *Jesus talks about "life" in this passage. What does He say? What comes to mind when you hear the word "life"?*

Bible Moment

In verse 34, Jesus says His followers must "take up their cross." While He isn't saying that we all must endure the kind of death He did, He is saying that following Him requires sacrifice.

watch the "A Different Way" week 2 video.

- **ASK:** *What stood out to you in the video? Why?*
- **ASK:** *Did the video help you understand what we read in Mark 8? How?*

talk with others about our faith.

DO THIS: Lead your students in a conversation about the kind of life Jesus offers us using the questions on the next page.



- **ASK:** People talk a lot about “living life to the fullest.” What do you think most people mean when they talk about living that kind of life?
- **ASK:** How is the kind of “full life” the world offers different from the kind of life Jesus is describing?
- **ASK:** What do you think it looks like to pursue the kind of life that Jesus offers on a daily basis?

say this:
 Knowing and following Jesus doesn't just mean that we'll have eternal life in Heaven someday - it means we can experience a better and more satisfying way of life right now.

pray by talking to God.

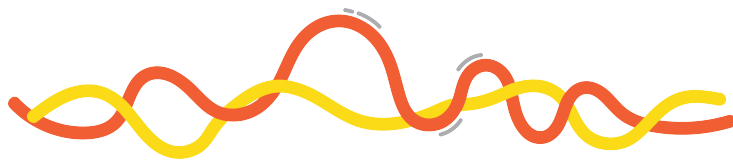
DO THIS: Lead your students in a time of prayer about the kind of life Jesus offers them using their **Student Notebooks** and the prompt below.

- Open your **Student Notebook** to a blank page and spend a couple minutes writing a prayer to Jesus. Thank Him for making His kind of life available to you and ask Him to help you pursue that life on a daily basis.

live in a way that honors God.

DO THIS: Give your students the following **LIVE** challenge for the week:

- Spend some time this week reading **Mark 8:34-38** and **John 17:3**. Write down any thoughts or questions that come to your mind as you read. Bring what you wrote down to share with the group next week.



memory verse

“And this is the way to have eternal life—to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one You sent to earth.”

John 17:3