

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Learning to see Jesus – Mark 8-9

1. Jesus' first feeding miracle (Mark 6) took place in a Jewish area – why is it significant that this second feeding miracle took place in a Gentile (now Jewish) area? Read Isaiah 49:5-6
2. The first half of Mark's gospel is concerned with the question 'Who is Jesus?' How does Mark 8:1-10 help our understanding?
3. What do the Pharisees want when they come to Jesus? How are they different from others who come to Jesus? (ie the four friends who bring their lame friend in Mark 2; Jairus and the sick woman in Mark 5; the syrophenician woman in Mark 7). How does Jesus respond to those who want to test him? How does he respond to those who need him and ask for his help?
4. Read v22-26. What is strange about this healing? What does it take before the man is able to see clearly? At first he sees and yet doesn't see at the same time. Who in Mark's gospel is like this?
5. Read v27-30. The crowds think Jesus is one of the prophets. Is this sufficient? How does our community admire and respect Jesus? Is this sufficient?
6. How clearly does Peter 'see' when he recognises Jesus as the Christ?
7. Read v31-32 How clearly does Peter 'see'? Peter seems to see and yet doesn't see at the same time. Like the blind man, he will need a further 'touch' from Jesus before he sees clearly who Jesus is.
8. Read v34-3. What does following Jesus require of you? Is your Christianity costing you? If not, why?
9. Christian missionary Jim Elliot said 'he is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose'. Have you given your life to Jesus? Are you confident of your future?
10. How do you feel about the picture of the future we read in 9:2-3?
11. How are you listening to the beloved Son in 9:7?