

DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Put Your Neck on the Line
For the Gospel*
The Gospel of Mark — Week 30

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever participated in a long distance walking, running, or biking event? Tell your story.

OVERVIEW: One thing we learn from the arrest and beheading of John the Baptist is that serving God is hazardous. And that's why most people never get used by God in a significant way. They aren't willing to face the dangers of serving God. But God wants to use us in a powerful way. All we have to do is be willing to risk it all for Him. In this discussion we will talk about how to become people who put our necks on the line for the Gospel.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Serving God is hazardous. It may lead to suffering, hatred, or even death. Why is serving God so dangerous?
3. Which of these three — suffering, hatred, or death — have you faced for serving God? Explain.
4. Why doesn't God rescue His people when they face suffering, hatred, or death for His sake?

5. Because serving God is so dangerous, God can only use us if we are willing to face those dangers for His sake. We must be willing to risk it all for Him. What would be the hardest thing for you to give up in service to God?
6. Read Luke 9:23-26.
 - What does it mean to deny yourself?
 - What does it mean to take up your cross? Daily?
 - What does it mean to be ashamed of Christ and His words (see v. 26)?
 - What does it mean that Christ will be ashamed of those who are ashamed of Him when He comes in His glory?
7. Is it worth it to risk it all for Christ and the Gospel?
8. To become people who are willing to put our necks on the line for the Gospel, we must dedicate ourselves to the propagation of the Gospel rather than the prosperity of self. What does that look like in your life?
9. What's wrong with the American Dream? How can you make sure that the American Dream doesn't rob you of God's dream for your life?
10. Let's pray for one another. What is one way God is calling you to serve Him, but you are hesitating because of the risks?

The Last Word: "For the eyes of Yahweh roam throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His."
— 2 Chronicles 16:9