

BRINGING IT HOME

5. At one point in the book of Acts, Paul speaks to a group of friends about his upcoming trip to Jerusalem. Read **Acts 20:22-24**. Imagine you were one of Paul's friends wanting to discourage him from going. What would you say to him?

How do you think Paul would respond?

6. Is there situation in your life where you need to "count the cost" of following Jesus? What is it?

What's one step you can take this week?

THE CHALLENGE OF SUFFERING

1. RIGHT ANSWER, WRONG _____

Mark 8:27-33

What do you associate with being right?

➔ **Let go of your quest to be right, _____, and powerful**

2. THE _____ OF GOD

Mark 8:33

How small is your world?

➔ **Find your _____ in the big picture of God's kingdom**

3. PAY THE _____

Mark 8:34-35

What are you willing to endure to follow Jesus?

➔ **Accept the ultimate _____ of the cross**

4. LIVE IN _____

Mark 8:35-38

Why do you follow Jesus?

➔ **Believe in _____**

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of March 8, 2009

Mark 8:27-38

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, what most challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to pick one form of “suffering” from the list below, which would it be? Defend your choice. How would you convince others that your choice is the best one?
 - A fear of all liquids
 - Constant sneezing
 - Disliking the taste of all foods
2. Can you think of a time when you made a decision because of your faith in Jesus and it resulted in suffering (even if it was temporary)? What happened?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. The idea of “suffering for doing good” can be a bit confusing. We usually assume that if people do good deeds, they will be praised for it. What are some possibilities of why people might suffer for doing good?

4. Read the following Bible verses about suffering for following Jesus. Write down the **motivation(s)** these verses give, as well as any **instructions** they give us if we are suffering for following Jesus.

Bible	Motivation	Instructions (if any)
Romans 8:17-18		
2 Corinthians 4:16-18		
Hebrews 11:24-26		
1 Peter 4:12-16,19		

How would you summarize what you read in these Bible verses?