

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:1-56

Bottom Line:

1. A faith that forgets! (v.52)

What did the disciples not understand or forget?

a. Who _____ was! (v.2; 4:41)

b. What _____ did! (v.30-52)

c. What _____ did! (v.12-13)

Resulting in fear and a hard heart! (v.50-52)

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2. A faith that Remembers!

a. _____ on Jesus! (Heb. 12:2-3)

b. _____ from the past! (John 20:21)

c. _____ themselves before God! (1 Peter 5:6)

Resulting in peace and a heart that trusts God!

(Rom. 5:1-5; Phil. 4:9)

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Community Group Curriculum
For the week of February 16, 2014
"Ministry of the Kingdom"
Mark 6:1-56

BIG PICTURE

Christians in Rome had already heard and believed the good news of God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ but, living in a society opposed to their beliefs, they needed to hear it again. Christians today likewise need to comprehend what it means to follow Christ as one of his disciples. Mark illustrates how Jesus cared for his disciples and how he taught them. Note that Mark emphasized Jesus' actions. As we dive into chapter six check out how faith plays such a vital role in all the stories. Remember, faith is (Hebrews 11:1) "*being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*" Faith is not blind, but based squarely on God's proven faithfulness.

LET'S DIG IN!

1. Read Mark 6:1-6

Why were the people of Nazareth incapable of appreciating who Jesus was? What does this account tell us about the relationship between his miracles and the faith of the people? Have you ever tried to share the gospel with your family and/or closest friends, as did Jesus? What was their response?

2. Read Mark 6:7-13

Jesus now sends out the 12 apostles. What was the purpose of sending the disciples in sets of two? What do we learn about the nature of their mission from the instructions given by Jesus? Why were they told to take so little with them? Can you apply the disciples' mission to your own today?

3. Read Mark 6:14-29

Apostles were sent out in poverty, healed people, served Jesus and were martyred for selflessly serving God. In contrast, the selfish and cowardly King Herod ruled in decadent luxury, killed and banished people and sought Jesus as entertainment all to suit himself. This passage is a flashback to John the Baptist's beheading and a foreshadowing story to Jesus' own suffering and death. What are the three theories about who Jesus was? Which one does Herod believe and why?

What do Herod's actions throughout this episode show us about the way sin operates? How can sin "snowball" on you? What can you do to combat it?

4. Read Mark 6:30-44

Why do you think Jesus provided much more than enough food for the people then requested that the surplus be carefully gathered up (vv. 42-43)?

Make a list of what Jesus taught about God's nature when he fed the 5,000 with only five small loaves and two fish.

Share in your group a time that Jesus took your limited resources, multiplied them and used them to do something great.

5. Read Mark 6:45-56

In verse 48 it says that Jesus “meant to pass by them.” Look at Exodus 33:19, 22; 34:6 and see what you learn about Jesus’ identity.

What did Jesus teach the disciples about God's nature when he walked across the water to their boat during the storm? How is Peter's experience of walking on water relevant to your life today? What does it teach you about faith?

6. Group Question

THEN: What do you think would have been the greatest difficulty in being a disciple of Jesus? What do you think would have been the greatest joy in being a disciple of Jesus?

NOW: What is the greatest difficulty for you today in being a disciple of Jesus? What is the greatest joy for you today in being a disciple of Jesus?

PRAYER PLEASE

The following are questions for prayer and reflection based on this passage:

- Like people from Jesus' hometown, has familiarity with Jesus prevented you from really seeing who he is? Do you take people close to you for granted?
- Where has God sent you to tell about the kingdom? How have you responded?
- Are there people whose needs you are neglecting?
- Like Herod, have you sinned where it “snowballed” out of control or let pride get in the way when making a decision? Are there remnants of a past sin that still needs to be rectified?
- How strong is your faith during storms in your life? To whom do you turn for help?

KEY DEFINITIONS

King Herod (v. 14) – Herod Antipas's father, Herod the Great, tried to kill the infant Jesus. When his father died, Antipas became tetrarch (“ruler of one-fourth”) of Galilee and Perea.

Two hundred denarii (v. 37) – A denarius was the daily wage for a hired hand. Two hundred denarii was about eight (8) months' wages.

Loaves (v. 38) – John 6:9 tells us these were barley loaves. People would eat several of these small, flat pieces of bread at a single meal.