

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 12, 2015

Passage: Mark 6:45-56

Memory Passage: Mark 6:49-50

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:45-56.** After reading the text once, summarize in one sentence the main point of vs. 45-52?
- (b) How do vs. 45-56 fit in their immediate context (i.e. with what precedes and follows)?
- (c) How do vs. 45-56 add to and continue the recurring themes we have noticed in Mark's gospel?
- (d) Why does Jesus act swiftly to get the disciples into the boat and on the water and the crowd dispersed (cf. John 6:14-15)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:45-56.** What 2 things does Jesus do in v. 46, and why are they important for Him?
- (b) Write down at least 5 spiritual benefits of seeking solitude.
- (c) How often do you, for the sake of spiritual growth, seek times of solitude & silence? How do you benefit from doing this?
- (d) Write down some ways in which you intend to experience both short and extended periods of solitude, as well as several goals for these times of spiritual growth.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:45-56.** Why does Jesus, who is God incarnate, need to pray?
- (b) How are solitude and prayer related in a believer's life? Must believers be in solitude to pray? Is it helpful?
- (c) How integrated was prayer in your answers to questions, b, c, & d from Day 2?
- (d) What purpose does prayer serve in your life? How important is it (measure this by the amount of time you actually pray, *not* by your intellectual suppositions about its importance)?
- (e) How would you instruct a new believer concerning why to pray, how to pray, and the importance of prayer?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:45-56.** With what were the disciples struggling (v. 48), and how was this struggle different from 4:35-41?
- (b) Where was Jesus when He saw the disciples' predicament, and why is this important for the story? For you personally?
- (c) Why did Jesus intend "to pass by them" (food for thought: read Ex. 33:19-34:7 & 1 Kings 19:9-13)?

(d) Why did the disciples think Jesus was a ghost, and what *should* their response have been, considering He “passed by?”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 6:45-56.** Why were the disciples “utterly astounded?” What was it “about the loaves” they did not understand?

(b) Explain what is meant by “their hearts were hardened,” especially in light of Mark 3:5, 8:17, and Ephesians 4:18.

(c) Explain what is happening in vs. 53-56, what purpose this section serves in the flow of Mark’s gospel, and how it serves specifically to transition to chapter 7.

(d) In what ways might you see Jesus “passing by” in the midst of one of life’s storms but not see Him? In what ways can you prepare to recognize Him and therefore avoid missing Him?

DATE: July 12, 2015

PASSAGE: Mark 6:45-56

Jesus Passing By