

## Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Mark

### Week 6: Signs of the Kingdom

Hi Small Group Leaders,

Great to see some of you out at the first night of Gibberish last night. We had a great start with lots of engagement and some important foundations set in understanding the story of God and his creation. Thanks to those of you who were able to make it! This week we saw Jesus feed thousands of people with only five fish and two loaves –an incredible miracle of multiplication and provision. Our hope is that this week as you and your Small Group draw close to Jesus you experience him as your Source, providing for you in all the ways you need!

#### I. Catch Up (15 mins)

- Play a game, have fun, share some food, or catch up together

#### II. Dig In

- Review (10 mins)
  - Jesus begins in this passage by spending some time in review with his disciples. We've been in the 'Marked' series for four months now. What has been most impactful for you? What about Jesus has stood out to you? How has it changed the way you live or think?
- Seek Understanding
  - Read Mark 6:30-44
    - What does it mean that the crowds were "like sheep without a shepherd"?
      - Why do they need a shepherd?
    - Jesus begins with teaching before he does a miracle. Why?
    - Discuss the miracle of multiplying the food. Why did Jesus do this instead of just sending them away to buy food? What is the significance of this miracle?
    - What is the significance of Mark mentioning there were 12 baskets of leftovers?
- Apply
  - If Jesus needed rest and guided his disciples to rest as well, what might that mean for us? How do you practice intentional rest in your life right now? What are restful practices for you?
    - Do you practice any Spiritual rhythms? (prayer, meditation on Scripture, fasting, solitude, etc.) Would you consider introducing one of these into your life over the season of Lent (beginning now till Easter)?
  - Jesus begins with teaching before the miracle. Scott mentioned that the Torah was the Jews spiritual bread. Jesus addressed one form of hunger before another. What

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are you hungry for these days? (God's Word? Jesus? Purpose? Healing? Provision? Space? Fried chicken?)

- Scott drew out that the disciples recognized a need (people were hungry) and they brought that need to Jesus (so good so far), but they also brought their solution (which wasn't Jesus'). Discuss the implications of this for how we pray.
  - How do we more often discover God's solutions to our problems rather than just come up with our own?
    - Where in our lives have we already decided what God ought to do?
  - One of the most impactful images from Scott's sermon this week was the disciples returning to Jesus with their empty baskets over and over and Jesus providing them with the multiplied food again and again. Jesus was the source for their participation in his mission. So how are you doing at staying close to Jesus these days and how is that leading you to engage in his mission?
- Pray
    - Express your hunger to God in prayer (or your desire to be hungry for him and his kingdom).
    - Pray for one another in the ways in which Jesus is inviting you to join in his mission.