

***“But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” Mark 6:37***

*Find a quiet place to begin. Take a few deep breaths. Ball your hands up into a fist and think about all of the frustrations, irritations, and worries of the day. Now take a long slow breath. As you release your fists, ask God to take away your anxiety and frustration of the day, and open your heart and mind to the study of his word.*

Read Mark 6:1-6

1. Where did Jesus go and what day of the week was it? Has he done this before?
2. What do the people say about Jesus?
3. Notice that the people mention a profession. What was Jesus doing prior to beginning his ministry? Do you find this odd? Why or why not?
4. Why could Jesus not do any works or healing there?
5. What does Jesus think about what they say?
6. Is there a connection between the works that Jesus does and the faith of the people that are benefitting from them?
7. How would you have reacted had you been in Nazareth when this took place?

Read Mark 6:7-13

1. What does Jesus do with the disciples? What does he give them authority to do?
2. What are the instructions he gives them? Are they thorough?
3. Why do you think he gave the disciples this particular set of instructions? What might have it encouraged?
4. What did the disciple do?

Read Mark 6:14-29

1. Look back at Mark one. Who was John the Baptist?
2. Why was Herod and others talking about John the Baptist? (vs. 14).
3. Where was John the Baptist, according to the story?
4. Who did Herod Antipas marry?
5. What did Herod think about John the Baptist?
6. What happened on Herod's birthday?
7. Why do you think Mark included this story?
8. Jesus disciples were on their own at this point in the story. How do you think they might have reacted/felt when they heard the news about John the Baptist?

Read Mark 6:30-44

1. Who came back to Jesus and where did they go?
2. For what purpose did the disciples and Jesus go to a desolate place?
3. Who met them there instead?
4. What did Jesus do?
5. The people were hungry and Jesus wanted the disciples to do something about it (remember they had just returned from their own journey of casting out demons and healing people too!) what did Jesus want them to do?

6. Do you think they could have done it?
7. Instead, what does Jesus do?
8. Note the leftovers after the story. There are 12 baskets left over. Do you think this might be significant for the disciples? Why or why not?

Read Mark 6:45-56

1. What is happening in this story?
2. Has this happened before? What's significant about this story from the last time Jesus walked on water?
3. Mark 6:53-56 is a very mark-like summary to write. Where do you think people got the idea to touch the fringe of Jesus garments?

***Defining the "Bible-y" Words:***

**King Herod:** known as Herod Antipas. He was the ruler of Galilee and Perea. He was a tetrarch of Rome and was referred to as King Herod during that time. He lived from 20 BC thru 39 AD.

**Elijah:** Elijah was a prophet (a person who spoke the will of God in the Old Testament.) who lived in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the time of King Ahab. He was a unique, eccentric prophet known for doing very powerful things. His story can be found in 1 Kings if you want to read more about him.

**Herodias:** A young teenaged girl who was a princess and who eventually married Herod Antipas. She was the daughter of Aristobulus IV and Bernice. She has more gory details in her Wikipedia biography, and you can look up the rest.

**Bethsaida:** a city east of the Jordan that was uncultivated and used for grazing livestock.

**Gennesaret:** A city on the northwestern shore of Galilee.