

## **STUDY GUIDE:**

### **Extraordinary Life Series in the Gospel of Mark Seeds and the Kingdom of God | Mark 4:26-34**

#### **Applying Extraordinary Lessons for Extraordinary Life**

When you look back, can you see where God has shown up in your life? Think of a challenge or an unsuspected circumstance you had in your life in the last five years. How did God show up or redeem that moment into a lesson that changed your life?

#### **Read Mark 6:30-44 | Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

Why do you think Jesus told his disciples, “*You give them something to eat?*” Essentially, “*you feed several thousand people right now.*” What would have been the best response?

What do you learn about Jesus from this miraculous event?

#### **Read Mark 6:45-52 | Jesus Walks on the Water**

In all the busyness and chaos of healing, teaching, and feeding, Jesus steals away frequently to pray in solitude. We see one of those instances in verse 46. Why would he do this? What does this mean for us?

Read verses 50-52 again out loud.

Mark goes back to the loaves and the fish. They should have learned a lesson there that would have changed the way they lived in this windy-walking-on-water moment. What do you think Jesus wanted them to do on that boat?

Neal drew out two lessons from Feeding the Five Thousand this last weekend.

1. Jesus has power over nature.
2. God will give you the resources you need for the task that He calls you to in life.

If they truly learned and applied these two lessons, would they have responded differently in the boat? How?

## **Faith in Your Life**

If the disciples truly learned lessons from Jesus in the Feeding crisis, they would've had the faith in Jesus to respond differently to head wind and Jesus walking on water. Mark tells us that *they didn't learn because their hearts were hardened...* he tells us this so that we can actually learn with malleable and listening hearts.

Real faith in Jesus will lead us to live differently.

This next section from Neal will help us identify and understand lessons from God in our own lives so that we can live with confident faith in our today and tomorrow.

## **How to use the challenges in your past to prepare you for the ones ahead:**

1. Recall the challenge you faced in the first question of this study guide.
  - Think of the people, circumstances, & events involved.
  - Identify where you see God in those people, circumstances, or events.
  - Look for lessons: What did you learn from God?
  - Ask God is there is anything else He wants you to learn from that situation.
2. Be prepared for the challenges you will face ahead.
  - Share the lessons you learned with others.
  - Find scripture that supports the lessons.

Mark wants us readers to learn what it took the disciples a long time to process. Mark wants us to see that Jesus has power, He cares, and He provides the resources you need to succeed in the task He calls you to. This is the faith that causes you live differently. This is the faith that fosters an extraordinary life walking with Jesus through daily challenges and opportunities. Would your life look different if you had more confidence, hope and faith in Jesus?

*“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”  
So we say with confidence,  
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?”  
Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.  
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”  
Hebrews 13:5b-8*

