THE GOSPEL OF MARK

VOLUME 2 / SERMON-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE · LEADER

FALL SEASON Sep 27 – Dec 6 / WINTER SEASON Jan 11 – Mar 14

AT A GLANCE

MAIN TEXT
Mark 6:30–52
Also: James 2:14–17; Job 9:8

MAIN IDEA
Jesus trains His followers to rest in Him, act with compassion, and depend on His power. Above all, these lessons lead us to see and worship Jesus - our gracious, all-powerful Savior.

LEADER GROWTH FOCUS

INTENTIONAL ABOUT INVITING
This week, encourage your group to think about who they could invite into community. With Christmas caroling and Eve Eve services approaching, these are great opportunities to include someone new. Lead by example and consider personally inviting someone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / EMERGENCE.CHURCH/DIGITAL-BULLETIN

01 **Christmas Eve Eve Services.** You are invited to join us for a very special Christmas Eve Eve here at Emergence as we gather to rejoice in the birth of Jesus together! On Wednesday, December 23, we'll have 7 services across both campuses:

TOTOWA 3:00 PM | 4:30 PM | 6:00 PM | 7:30 PM **RINGWOOD** 3:00 PM | 4:30 PM | 6:00 PM

02 **Opportunities for Generosity.** With the holiday season approaching, we are reminded of how many of those around us are in need and we long to be a blessing however we can. That's why we have several opportunities to give and serve to meet local needs in North Jersey. Details on the Digital Bulletin.

03 **Ringwood Christmas Kick-off · Dec 5 · 9:30–11:30 AM.** Come celebrate the start of the Christmas season as a campus. This will be a fun time to decorate the campus, find opportunities to be generous, and even share a meal. RSVP on the digital bulletin!

04 **Winter Sessions · Starting Dec 7.** Pastor Doug will be covering everything from interpretation to application that you can use right now, to help you get the most out of God's Word. No sign up needed, just come on out!

05 **Christmas Caroling · Starting week of Dec 6.** Starting December 6th, community groups will go out into their neighborhoods caroling and inviting to our Eve Eve services. Details here: https://emergence.church/caroling

GETTING STARTED

01 **Icebreaker** What is something other people call "relaxing" that you find stressful?
02 **Pray** to help transition into the discussion time.
03 **Community Extras** (Length 2:43 – Questions included below)

LAST WEEK'S GROWTH STEP FOLLOW-UP

LEADERS Keep the follow-up light: "If you were able to try this, how did it go?" It is always okay to pass.

OUTWARD ACTION
Invite someone open to a conversation about Jesus for coffee, a meal, or an activity. Ask a Christian friend to pray and partner with you.

INWARD PRAYER
Ask Jesus, "Where am I listening without surrendering, or protecting my comfort instead of obeying? Give me courage and a willing heart."

SERMON DISCUSSION

PRIORITIZE MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION OVER GETTING THROUGH EVERY QUESTION.

01 The Rest We Resist

READ Mark 6:30–32

After a demanding stretch of ministry, the disciples return with stories of all they have done. Jesus invites them away to rest with Him, reminding us that our identity cannot rest on productivity, achievement, or how much we do for God. Even good work can become an unhealthy source of worth.

01 What stands out to you about Jesus' response when the disciples return from ministry? Why might stepping away be just as important as going out?	**NOTES**
02 When you finally stop working, serving, or being productive, what feelings tend to surface? What might that reveal about where you look for your worth?	**NOTES**
03 What could a realistic rhythm of being alone with Jesus, away from the noise and pressure to achieve, look like in your current season?	**NOTES**

02 When Compassion Becomes Action

READ Mark 6:33–37; James 2:14–17

The crowd interrupts the disciples' attempt to rest. While the disciples want to send everyone away, Jesus sees people who need a shepherd and moves toward them. Both sermons challenged us to let concern become meaningful action, even when caring for someone is inconvenient.

01 Jesus and the disciples look at the same crowd, but respond differently. What do you notice about each response, and what might explain the difference?	**NOTES**
02 How can we practice both needed rest and genuine compassion when someone's needs interrupt our plans? If you're able, share an example of wrestling with that tension.	**NOTES**

FOR LEADERS
Rest and compassion belong together. Jesus invites the disciples to rest, yet responds to a need when the crowd arrives. Avoid implying every interruption is a divine assignment or that people must exhaust themselves to be faithful. Encourage both wise boundaries and love that acts.

03 Set the Table, Trust Jesus

READ Mark 6:37–44; 2 Corinthians 12:9

Jesus tells the disciples to feed a crowd they clearly cannot provide for. He asks them to find what they have and prepare the people. Jesus is the One who multiplies the food. Dependence means offering what we can, trusting God to do what we can't.

01 What does Jesus ask the disciples to do in this scene, and what does He do that they could never accomplish on their own?

NOTES

02 When you see a need that feels too big or complicated to solve, are you more likely to overextend yourself, give up, or offer what you can? What drives that response?

NOTES

03 Have you seen God show up when you really had nothing left and very little to offer? How does that experience change the way you think about serving Him?

NOTES

04 Don't Miss the Person

READ Mark 6:45–52; Job 9:8

The disciples strain against the wind while Jesus walks across the sea. Mark says they were amazed because they had not understood the loaves: both miracles were revealing the glory of the One standing before them. Rest, compassion, and dependence ultimately point us beyond good practices to Jesus Himself, our powerful and grace-filled Savior.

01 Why does Mark connect the disciples' amazement on the water with their failure to understand the loaves (v. 52)? What were they missing about Jesus?

NOTES

02 The sermon warned us not to get so focused on the practices of following Jesus that we miss the Person. Where has this showed up in your life, and what's helped you to re-center on your relationship with Jesus?

NOTES

FOR LEADERS

Both these miracles together reveal who Jesus is. This is not just another example of power over storms (covered in Mark 4). Mark 6:52 connects the sea to the loaves. Pastor Curtis pointed to Job 9:8; Pastor Tyler connected the wilderness bread with Exodus 16 and "passing by" with Exodus 33. Both emphasize the identity and glory of Jesus.

GROWTH STEP THIS WEEK

OUTWARD ACTION

As you notice a practical need this week, take a step of compassion: pray with someone, provide help, or offer what you're able to.

INWARD PRAYER

"Father, show me where busyness, stress, or results have become my source of worth. Teach me to rest in You."

PRAYER PROMPTS

Use these to get started, or invite someone to pray freely to close.

- Thank Jesus that our standing with Him is grounded in His grace, not our performance.
- Ask for freedom from unhealthy dependence on hurry, stress, and achievement.
- Pray for eyes to see real needs and willingness to respond with practical compassion.
- Bring needs we cannot fix to God, asking for faithful action and trust with the outcome.
- Praise Jesus for His power, compassion, death, and resurrection; ask for hearts that truly worship Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS / FOLLOW-UP NOTES

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT: Mark 6:53–7:23