

# THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

## ~Week Seven~

### “Feeding of the 5,000”

Mark 6:30-56



Life Groups

Welcome back to UPC's study of the book of Mark entitled "The Surprising Jesus." Whether you work through these studies on your own, with a friend, or with a UPC Life Group, they will help you develop a HEAD that enjoys God's truth, a HEART of love for God and neighbor, and HANDS eager to serve the King.

**A reminder...** This weekly Bible study is connected to the Sunday sermons at UPC. It includes a "Look Back" section to help you reflect on the sermon, and a "Look Up" section to take you through the NEXT passage in the book of Mark. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

## LOOK BACK – Mark 6:1-29

As Jesus' earthly ministry develops, the cost of discipleship becomes ever clearer. In this passage we discover that following Jesus is a matter of life...and death.

a) When Jesus returned to His hometown of Nazareth to preach the good news (vss. 1-4), how did the people react? What explains this response? Have you ever had a similar experience?

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b) What is the relationship between Jesus' power and our faith? (vss. 5-6)

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c) Why do you think Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs? (vss. 7-13)

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d) How do Jesus' instructions to the disciples in vss. 8-11 apply to believers today?

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e) Why was John the Baptist beheaded? (vss. 14-29)

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## LOOK UP – Mark 6:30-56

Jesus continues to display His power by performing miracles that directly meet human needs. As verse 52 makes clear, however, the focus of these miracles is not the stomach but the heart!

### Mark 6:30-44 – Jesus Feeds the Multitude

a) Understandably, after so much ministry activity Jesus and His disciples need some “R and R” (vss. 30-32). Matthew’s account shows there was another reason Jesus needed to get away (Matt. 14:13). What was it?

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b) What explains Jesus’ willingness, despite His grief and fatigue, to keep ministering to the crowds that followed Him (vss. 33-34)?

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c) Why did Jesus challenge His tired disciples with the words, “You give them something to eat” (vs. 37)?

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d) The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 (and notice that this is only the number of *men* in the crowd!) is one of the few miracles recorded by all four gospel writers. John’s account brings out several interesting facts not given by the others. What are they? (John 6:1-13)

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e) What did Jesus communicate about Himself by feeding this multitude?

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### Mark 6:45-56 – Jesus Walks on Water

a) Why did Jesus dismiss both the crowd and His twelve disciples (vss. 45-46)? What is the lesson here?

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b) What striking attributes or qualities of Jesus Christ are revealed in verses 47-52?

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c) Mark chooses not to report something else that happened as Jesus walked on the water toward the disciples. Read Matthew's account (Matt. 14:22-33) and find out what that was.

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d) What is the significance of the words, "they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened" (vs. 52)?

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**LOOK IN – Reflect**

a) Put yourself in the sandals of one of the 12 disciples. What aspects of the gospel have you learned as you have witnessed Jesus feeding the 5,000, walking on water, and healing the sick?

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b) Does your life reflect that you have "understood about the loaves" (vs. 52)? Why or why not?

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**LOOK OUT – Apply**

Twice in this chapter of Mark's gospel (vss. 31-32, 45-46), we see Jesus seeking out solitude. In today's context, solitude is hard to find. All the more reason to grab time alone to rest, reflect, evaluate, pray, and listen to God...before someone or something else grabs it away from you. Go to your personal calendar and schedule an hour this week to be alone with God. There are all sorts of ways you might do this; there are no set rules or formulas. Just do it.