

Dig Deeper @Home – “What Child is This?”

Complement to lesson on 01/28/2014 – “Mark 8”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is the best meal you have ever eaten? Who made it? What set it apart?
2. Of the four gospels, which is your personal favorite, and why?

MEMORIZE – Mark 8: 27-30

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

READ – Read Mark 8

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. If you’ve been reading along in the book of Mark, this feeding of a hungry crowd of 4,000 should sound familiar. Take a look back at Mark 6:30-44:
 - a. What differences do you see between the feeding of the 5,000 (ch6) and the 4,000 (ch8)?
What similarities? How do we know they are not a retelling but separate accounts?
 - b. Why might Jesus have performed these two very similar miracles? What does He want those present (and us) to see? (Hint: John 6:35-58)
 - c. The feeding of the 5,000 took place in Bethsaida (Luke 9:10), where the crowd would be mostly Jewish, but the feeding of the 4,000 most likely took place in Gentile territory (Mark 7:31). How does this additional information affect your understanding of what happened and why? (Use an online search engine or a Bible dictionary to look up “Gentile,” if that is a term you are unfamiliar with.)

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Blessing others with food

If you're anything like me, reflecting on the feeding of the four and five thousand is probably making you hungry! This is a good reminder that God has built something special into humanity's relationship with food. You may not have the ability to miraculously multiply fish and loaves, but what other ways could you bless others this week using food?

Perhaps you are a great cook... why not invite a friend, neighbor, or new attender to church over for lunch?

Maybe you have been blessed with an abundance of resources... consider donating food to a local food bank, or bring a large bag of macaroni and cheese to church on Sunday for donation to The Open Link food pantry!

If you're in school... keep an eye out for someone that tends to sit by themselves or who doesn't seem to fit in, and offer them a tasty treat from your lunchbox or purchase them one as an act of kindness!

If anyone asks you why you are doing these things, be prepared to give a reason for "the hope that lies in you!"
1 Peter 3:15

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Open the Eyes of My Heart - <https://youtu.be/Vnqb7Vn4AEE>

I Am Thine, O Lord – Mennonite Hymnal #581

Listen: Cody Carnes- Bread & Wine - <https://youtu.be/kNhwS3fDSZw?si=dS5oAD8cs5YtMlbw>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

O LORD, like the disciples who saw you feed the 5,000 and then knew not what to do as the 4,000 stood before them, we too often forget your faithfulness in the past and fail to trust that you are working in the present. Remind us of your never changing character, and empower us to walk in assurance that you are always with us and for us. You are the same today, yesterday and forever, God, and we thank you for your unfailing love.