



Week of July 22, 2018

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him,

⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.

⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Is a weekend spent completely alone your idea of a great time or a terrible time? What would you do?
- B. How would someone who just met you describe you differently from someone who knows you well?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 31, it says that Jesus invited the disciples to get away for some rest. In verse 33, it says the crowds recognized them and got there ahead of them. Do you think the disciples ever got their rest? How do you imagine Jesus dealt with it?
2. In verse 34, what do you think it means to be a "sheep without a shepherd", and why would this be cause for compassion?
3. Read verses 54-55 carefully. Who is bringing the sick? Do you see this as being perhaps only the friends and relatives of the sick, or could it be everyone in the area bringing everyone who is in need? How would this difference affect the story and what it means for how we are to act as Christians?
4. Considering the "fringe" of Jesus' cloak, where is the center of your life, and what is at the fringes of your life? How might you be a more faithful Christian at the fringes?
5. What do you think about healing as a motivation for people to come to Jesus? What kind of healing can Christian community provide?
6. How can you be a healing presence to others? Who do you know needs a healing presence?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about being more faithful where we interact with the world.