



# QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

## Discussion Questions **LEADER GUIDE**

Week of 3/17/24

**Text:** Mark 8:1-21

**Icebreaker:** Have you had a time when what you had to offer did not seem like it was enough to meet a need or accomplish a task? What happened?

1. Read Mark 8:1-21. What was significant to you from these verses or from the sermon you heard this week? Why?
2. Verses 1-5 describe the basic problem facing Jesus and the disciples. What do these verses tell us about Jesus's heart toward the "great crowd" that had gathered?

**Jesus knows their need and has compassion toward them.**

*Application:* How would you define "compassion"? What difference do you think compassion makes in how we respond to the needs of others?

**Jesus is showing care and concern for them. He knows they are vulnerable and unable to resolve their problem on their own. This makes all the difference in how we respond to others. If we lack compassion, we likely won't act or will be stingy in our response or with an attitude of annoyance. Instead, Jesus demonstrates an abundant response where he provides even more than is needed.**

3. Use your imagination a bit...how else could Jesus have responded to the crowds' need? What do you notice about the way Jesus chooses to perform this miracle in verses 6-9?

**Maybe Jesus could have supernaturally satisfied their hunger and sustained them on their journeys home without food. He could have provided food for them on a smaller scale along their different journeys, or perhaps even sent them home immediately without having to journey at all! Again, this is imaginative.**

**What we actually read, though, is that Jesus acknowledges God's provision of the food and then has the disciples distribute it to the crowd in one single and large-scale miracle.**

*Application:* Has your own awareness of your limited abilities and resources ever kept you from an opportunity to help others? If so, what were the circumstances?

*Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted  
to loving God and loving others.*

4. Verses 11-13 describe Jesus's encounter with the Pharisees on another side of the lake. What is it about their attitude that leads Jesus to respond so differently than he did to the crowd?

The text tells us that they came arguing and wanted to test Jesus. In other words, this wasn't an honest inquiry or a quest to discover truth.

*Application:* What differences could we expect to observe between someone who is trying to investigate who Jesus is and someone who refuses to believe?

Sometimes we may not be able to notice a clear difference. Jesus (unlike us) knows what's in every heart. With time, though, we may be able to detect whether someone is on a genuine quest to discover who Jesus is. We should never forget, though, how Jesus can soften even the hardest of hearts. Someone who refuses to believe, though, is never satisfied with an answer or sign. One answered question only leads to another. One sign only leads to the demand for another, which seems to be the overall point of what's happening in these verses.

5. In verses 14-21, Jesus rebukes the disciples. What had they failed to remember?

They had failed to remember what Jesus had done earlier. In short, they had failed to remember his provision for their lives and the lives of those in the crowds. This, in-turn, contributed to their own blindness and deafness toward what Jesus was trying to teach.

*Application:* How has God provided for you and met your needs in the past? How should your memory of those things help as you face new needs or problems today?