
LEADERSHIP COACHING: THE DIFFERENCE JESUS MAKES

Discipleship Phrase: God, what are you inviting me into?

Big Idea for Series: When we surrender our lives to Jesus, He transforms everything.

Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

The focus this week is moving the attention away from one's self and moving it towards others. Jesus masterfully redirects the disciple's attention from themselves towards others in this week's story, the feeding of the five thousand. However, before getting the disciples involved, we read that Jesus sees the crowds and is moved with compassion. In Latin, 'compati' means to "suffer with". It's more than sympathy, it's empathy. It's owning the heartbreak of others as your own. This is the feeling that precedes the miracle. So, what is it that your heart has space to break for that might not necessarily be your own? Who's heartbreak can you own? How can you move now to serve that person best?

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

Small groups are approaching our holiday break with will officially run from Nov. 17th through Jan. 19th. During this time no new curriculum will be available online. However, for groups that chose to meet after during this time, feel free to go back and utilize any of the prior content from any of the past sermon series. New curriculum will be available beginning Jan. 19th of 2020. Please make your group aware of the holiday break and, as a leader, navigate through it as you see fit. Continue to fight for the relationships you've built up this year by making a commitment to stay in relationship!

Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

A lot of the times when we think of shepherding, we think of having all the answers or knowing just the right words to say when needed. In reality, as group leaders, sometimes the best remedy is to have a genuinely curious ear. It's easy to flood ourselves with pretenses or assumptions and to begin crafting responses in our heads before others are even finished speaking. Listening is a skill, and it's one that great group leaders are always developing. How's your skill of listening, being refined?

Background Plus[®] [a deeper dive into the context of this week's story]

- Most of the early Christian tradition says Mark wrote in Rome, writing for Gentile readers, explaining Jewish customs that would have been strange to Gentile readers.
- Mark's purpose for writing suggests that he wanted to enable his Christian readers to endure suffering and persecution for their faith effectively.
- Mark stressed Jesus' complete obedience to His Father's will. This emphasis makes Jesus an example for all disciples to follow.
- The Bible Project - [Mark](#)

REMEMBER: *Every group deserves a great leader.*

WEEK 2 - TOPIC: MARRIAGE OR SINGLENES

TAKEAWAY: JESUS MOVES MY ATTENTION FROM MYSELF TO OTHERS.

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions [Share the topic & takeaway this week from above]

Review the Guidelines [Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]

Review Last Week [A follow up to last week's takeaway]

Have you given any thought to the question, "God, what are you inviting me into?" How so?

Ask A Hook Question [A thought-provoking question to get the group focused]

What the most compassionate thing anyone has ever done for you?

Share Background for the Story [Provide context to the story from the Bible]

The fact that we have six accounts (2 in Matthew, 2 in Mark, 1 in Luke, 1 in John) of Jesus' feeding a multitude indicates that the early Church regarded the feeding as one of the greatest works of Jesus. Mark's account of this miracle plays an important role in his Gospel. The unusually long introduction provides the setting and stresses Jesus' humanity, and the miracle itself demonstrates His deity. Mark later referred to this miracle twice (6:52; 8:17-21), showing that the disciples did not learn what they should have from it. There is also an emphasis in this section on how Jesus cares for His own.

Share the Story: [Mark 6:34-44](#) [Volunteer from last week shares the story]

Rebuild the Story [Invites everyone to engage]

Read from Scripture [Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]

Discussion Questions: [Dive deeper, beyond the surface]

1. When Jesus saw the crowds, what feeling was He most overcome by and why?
2. What was the response of the disciples and why?
3. Jesus placed the disciples in an environment to shift their attention from self to others. What places might you be avoiding that is keeping you from being compassionate? Where do you serve regularly?
4. As a group, discuss where you are most compassionate at right now, then determine how your group can turn that compassion into an opportunity to serve others together this holiday season.

Assign Next Week's Passage: [1 Samuel 1:9-28](#)

Prayer Requests [Record, share & follow up throughout the week]

Closing Prayer [Ask openly for a volunteer]
