



## Bible Reading Group

# The gospel of Mark

## Chapter 8

### Jesus feeds the four thousand (Mark 8:1-10)

- 1 Verse one says “during those days” — what days were referred to?
- 2 Why did they have nothing to eat?
- 3 Did Jesus often feel compassion for people? (a concordance may help).
- 4 Should we feel compassion for people in need? How can we show it?
- 5 Why did the crowds stay so long?
- 6 They were in a “remote place”. Do we have any idea where?
- 7 Compare this miracle with the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:30-44). What are the similarities and what are the differences?
- 8 Can you find any information about the type of baskets that were used to gather the leftover pieces of bread?
- 9 Where is Dalmanutha?

### A sign from heaven (Mark 8:11-13)

- 10 Why did the Pharisees come to question Jesus?
- 11 Why did they ask for a sign from heaven?
- 12 In what way was this a test for Jesus?
- 13 Why did Jesus sigh deeply?
- 14 What did Jesus mean by “this generation”?
- 15 Why didn't Jesus give a sign to them, when he seemed to be constantly doing miracles and signs?
- 16 Where was he going in the boat this time?

**The yeast of the Pharisees and Herod (Mark 8:14–21)**

- 17 Had the disciples got out of the habit of bringing bread because of the miracles of making bread?
- 18 Why did Jesus start talking of the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod?
- 19 Do you think the disciples were feeling guilty because they hadn't brought bread?
- 20 Why didn't the disciples realize that Jesus was not speaking of literal bread?
- 21 What is a "hard heart"? Can you find any other verses that talk of hard hearts?
- 22 Can you find other verses that speak of eyes which don't see and ears which don't hear?
- 23 Jesus asked the disciples about the number of baskets of bread which had been picked up after both the feeding of the five thousand and the feeding of the four thousand. What point was he trying to make?

**The healing of a blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22–26)**

- 24 Where is Bethsaida?
- 25 Why did people beg Jesus to touch the blind man?
- 26 Why did Jesus take the blind man outside the village to heal him?
- 27 What was the purpose of spitting on the man's eyes and touching him?
- 28 Are there any other miracles where Jesus healed a blind man in two stages?
- 29 How would the blind man know what trees walking around looked like?
- 30 Why did Jesus tell the healed man not to go into the village? Do you know of any other similar commands after healings?
- 31 Do you think the man would have gone straight home?
- 32 If you were miraculously healed, what do you think your response would be?

**Peter's confession of Christ (Mark 8:27–30)**

- 33 Where is Caesarea Philippi?
- 34 Why do you think Jesus wanted to know who people said he was?

- 35 Why would some think he was John the Baptist?
- 36 What reason would others have for thinking he was Elijah?
- 37 In what way was he like one of the prophets?
- 38 Was Jesus asking *all* the disciples who they believed he was?
- 39 What does "Christ" mean?
- 40 Was Peter's answer right?
- 41 Why did Jesus warn them not to tell anyone about him?

### **Jesus predicts his death (Mark 8:31–38)**

- 42 Who is the "Son of Man"? Why was he called that?
- 43 Why did the Son of Man have to suffer many things?
- 44 Was Jesus rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law?
- 45 Why did Peter feel he should rebuke Jesus when he spoke plainly of the suffering to come?
- 46 What does "Satan" mean?
- 47 In what way was Peter a Satan?
- 48 What are the differences between the things of God and the things of men?
- 49 Jesus talked to the disciples and the crowd about taking up his cross and following him. What do you think they would have thought he meant?
- 50 How can we deny ourselves and follow Jesus?
- 51 How could we try to save our life and yet lose it?
- 52 In what way could we lose our life for Jesus and the gospel?
- 53 What salvation does God promise to Jesus' followers?
- 54 Are there occasions in our lives when we show that we are ashamed of Jesus and his words?
- 55 What can we do to overcome the temptation to deny Jesus?
- 56 When will Jesus come in his father's glory with the holy angels?