

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 8:1-21

WHEN ENOUGH IS NEVER ENOUGH

Jesus' call to followership requires that we humbly and earnestly seek after Him, and that we walk with Him by faith and not by sight.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Mark 8:1-10. Why did Mark include a second account of Jesus feeding a large crowd of people, similar to the one in Mark 6? What does he want his readers to learn from these two accounts?

Read Mark 8:11-13. Why did the Pharisees want a sign from Jesus?

Read Mark 8:14-21. What was the “leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod”? What lesson did the disciples fail to understand regarding this statement from Jesus?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Have you ever found yourself demanding more evidence or even a supernatural sign from God to increase your faith? If so, why? Is this a good habit to get into, or not?

Are doubts holding you back from fully embracing the life of followership to which Jesus calls you? If so, what will it take for you to follow Jesus with everything you have?

What does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight? Does it imply that we should simply shut our brains off and stop thinking for ourselves?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What evidence of Christ's love and presence in your life has He already given you? How can you use that knowledge to increase your trust in Him?

How can you begin to trust Jesus in situations and areas of your life where you don't see the full picture?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

Ask the Lord to help you to humbly seek Him, to fully embrace a life of followership and to walk with Him by faith and not by sight.

Share stories of how Jesus has worked in your life with your group. It helps to build up the faith of other people.