

**READ:** Mark 6:35-44

**MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 6:12

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** The details of this story help shape our understanding of when and how God feeds people. Those who experience this miracle find themselves in a desolate place, in a position of hunger, not in a five-star restaurant. When does God choose to open heaven's banquet table and feed His children?

**KEY INSIGHTS:**

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**ACTION:** Being hungry for Jesus means following Him even if you end up in the desert. Trust that when you find yourself in the desert with Jesus, your every need will be met. Today, skip a meal and practice the spiritual discipline of fasting. When you are hungry, let that remind you to be hungry for God. "Bread from heaven" is waiting for you.

**PRAYER:** Bread from Heaven, you sustain me. Thank you, Jesus, for physical nourishment, for the regular meals I enjoy. Today, I offer one of those meals back to you as a spiritual fast. I want to be hungry for you. Feed my soul Jesus. Amen.

**READ:** Mark 6:45-56

**MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 6:12

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** Jesus has people running to him for healing, running away from him out of anger, and even those close to Jesus fear Him. The disciples don't understand how Jesus operates. Jesus' ways are not their ways. Who is this Jesus who continuously shatters the natural order of our world? What is Jesus trying to do?

**KEY INSIGHTS:**

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**ACTION:** The Lord "passes by" the disciples on the water. He joins the disciples in their troubles, but in his way, not their way. You must be willing to follow Jesus His way. Be a miracle for someone today. Do something that will shock someone. Tell them that its not you who has done this thing, but it is Christ in you. Watch Jesus walk on water again.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, your "water-walking" ministry confuses me sometimes. People don't just walk on water. People don't cast out demons, perform miracles, and teach with heavenly authority. But you do. So do it in me, do it through me. I want to see you walk on water in my life and in the lives of others. Jesus, you are amazing! Amen.

## CURRENT SERIES



## YEARLY BIBLE READING PLAN

*In addition to the daily readings in this guide, you can read the following chapters to go through the whole Bible in a year:*

Monday, February 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 10:17-32
Tuesday, February 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 11:1-15
Wednesday, February 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 11:16-31
Thursday, February 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 12:1-14
Friday, February 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 12:15-28
Saturday, February 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 13:1-12

## MEMORY VERSE

They went out and preached that people should repent.

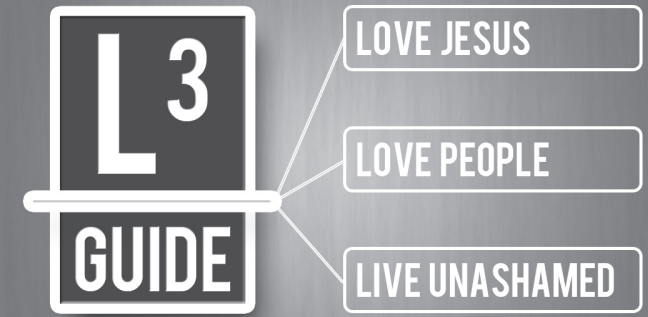
**MARK 6:12 NIV**

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FEBRUARY 12-19 • 2012

## It Doesn't Have to Be This Way

**Mark 5:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup>When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him. <sup>3</sup>This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. <sup>4</sup>Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup>Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. <sup>7</sup>With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” <sup>8</sup>For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” <sup>10</sup>Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. <sup>11</sup>There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby...

...<sup>12</sup>“Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.” <sup>13</sup>So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. <sup>14</sup>The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup>A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. <sup>16</sup>Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. <sup>17</sup>And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. <sup>18</sup>As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup>But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.” <sup>20</sup>So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.” (NLT)

Dr. Tim Thompson

**SPREAD THE WORD:** Hear today’s message again and share it with a friend. Pick up a CD in the Atrium, watch on WFRZ TV or online at [frazerumc.org/media](http://frazerumc.org/media), or download the podcast at [frazerumc.org/podcast](http://frazerumc.org/podcast).

**READ:** Mark 6:1-6 **MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 6:12  
**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** This is the “un-miracle” story. Notice Jesus in the previous chapter performs three miracles only to return home without a hero’s welcome. The relationships closest to Jesus diminish His authority in their lives. How do people reject Jesus? Why do people reject Jesus?

**KEY INSIGHTS:**

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**ACTION:** The people closest to Jesus reject Him. They reject the change they see in Him, and his teachings that challenge them to change. The same thing occurs for many people when they begin following Jesus. Today, reflect on your faith journey. Write down a few moments when you’ve been rejected for following Jesus.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, thank you for life. Thank you for meaning and purpose. When I am rejected for my faith, remind me that to be rejected by the world is to be accepted by God. I want to live for you no matter the cost. Here I am Lord; send me. Amen.

**READ:** Mark 6:7-13 **MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 6:12  
**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** Pay close attention to Jesus’ instructions as He sends out the disciples. These instructions still apply in principle today. Why is it important to travel light in life? What makes it hard for people to fulfill this mission today?

**KEY INSIGHTS:**

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**ACTION:** While getting ready for the day, become aware of the complexities of life. We worry about what we will wear, what we will eat, what we need to do, and where we need to go. Write down your morning routine. Then become intentional about letting that routine take second place to the mission of Christ.

**PRAYER:** Jesus, I’m sorry for when I hijack my life and fill it full of things that keep me busy and bogged down. Help me discover the mission that you have for my life. Move out of the way things that distract me from your mission. Thank you in advance for using my life today in a powerful way. It is so good to follow you! Amen.

**READ:** Mark 6:14-29 **MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 6:12  
**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** Mark places this story after the sending of the Twelve to remind the reader of the cost of discipleship. Think about the ‘success’ of Herod versus the ‘significance’ of Jesus. What are people seeking? Is it success or significance?

**KEY INSIGHTS:**

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**ACTION:** When we become disciples of Jesus Christ the priority changes. It used to be about worldly success; now it’s about kingdom significance. Today, be available for God. Be ready to serve. Be ready to give. Be ready to love. Be ready to encourage. Be ready to live for God. Be ready! Watch Jesus go to work...

**PRAYER:** Open up my eyes Lord to the things you want me to see. Open my heart to your calling on my life. I want to be your disciple. I want kingdom significance not worldly success. I’m ready to experience your life-giving mission. Amen.

**READ:** Mark 6:30-34 **MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 6:12  
**THINGS TO LOOK FOR:** Notice verse 30 continues the apostles’ report from verse 13. The apostles have been busy. They are tired. Jesus invites them on a retreat to rest and eat. Jesus gets away many times throughout Mark. What is Jesus doing while He is away? What do we need to learn from Jesus’ retreats?

**KEY INSIGHTS:**

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**ACTION:** Today, identify your quiet place. It can be in a certain room, in your backyard, a place at church or nearby your workplace. This is your sanctuary, the place where you intentionally go to meet God. Claim your place. Jesus will meet you there.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank you that you are mindful of me. Thank you that you want to meet with me, and spend time with me. Convict me, Lord, to spend time with you every day. Teach me. Mold me. Shape me. I look forward to our quiet times where your heart becomes mine. Amen.