

READ: Mark 8:22-26**MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 7:14-15

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: The disciples and the Pharisees cannot “see” Jesus for who He really is. How does the second touch of the blind man teach the disciples that following Him is a process that will result in “seeing” more clearly the kingdom of God?

KEY INSIGHTS:

ACTION: Sometimes the first time you “see” something you don’t understand fully what you have seen. Think of a time when you were exposed to something new and overtime you understood it more. Maybe it was a subject in school. Or a sport. Or a hobby. Our faith is much the same way. The more we “see” God at work the clearer His activity in our life becomes. Write down a few things you have seen.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for touching my life over and over again. There have been many times when I fail to understand, fail to see. Help me today Lord to “see” as much of your kingdom activity around me as possible. Increase my faith. I want to see more of you. Amen.

READ: Mark 8:27-38**MEMORY VERSE:** Mark 7:14-15

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the Messiah but then misunderstands the Messiah’s purpose. Here Jesus turns his focus on Jerusalem and the cross. Jesus teaches what the real business of God is. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

KEY INSIGHTS:

ACTION: Who do people today say that Jesus is? Who do you say he is? Write down your answer. If you believe he is the Christ, write out what this means for you: more of the “cross,” or less? Think of at least one “cross” in your life that you have been pushing away, but Jesus wants you to move toward.

PRAYER: Jesus, you are the Messiah. And yet sometimes, I too, fail to fully understand what that means in my life. If I’m honest, all too often I have not given up my whole life to follow you. But I have seen you, experienced you and through your Word my life is changing, transforming. Surround me with your life-giving Spirit. Lead me to the cross where real life is found. 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 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 26-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 13:13-25
Tuesday, February 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 14:1-18
Wednesday, February 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 14:19-35
Thursday, February 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 15:1-17
Friday, February 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 15:18-33
Saturday, February 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 15-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 16:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

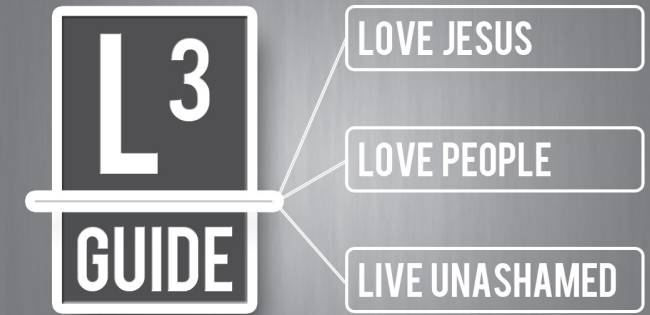
Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

MARK 7:14-15 NIV

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Jesus Compassion For His Sheep

Mark 6:34 (Memory Verse)

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. (NIV)

Introduction:

Jesus was trying to get away with His disciples from the people because they had been performing a lot of miracles and doing a lot of teaching.

Mark 4:38a

Mark 6:30-32

Matthew 11:28

I. The multitude moved Jesus to Compassion.

Mark 6:34a

- Compassion in the Greek means to sympathize (to place yourself in the same shoes with another)

Psalm 121:4

II. They were like Sheep without a Shepherd.

- Sheep are not the smartest of animals...

Matthew 18:12-14

Mark 6:34

III. The multitude heard the message of Repentance.

Mark 6:12

John 10:11

Rev. Robert Spicer

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, or download the podcast at frazerumc.org/podcast.

READ: Mark 7:1-23

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 7:14-15

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: The conflict with the Pharisees continues to escalate. Ritual versus relationship seems to be the debate. Why is Jesus upset with the Pharisees? Does Jesus imply that our outer cleanliness is of no importance to God? What are Jesus’ expectations of those who want to encounter God?

KEY INSIGHTS:

ACTION: It feels good to take a shower or hot bath, brush your teeth and comb your hair. It feels good to be clean. Today, attempt the same care of your soul. Write down a few ways to be made clean by God. Meditate on how these ways are helpful to you.

PRAYER: Almighty God, I stand before you in need of your cleaning. Scrub me and wash me. Make it thorough. You are invited into the deepest, darkest places of my soul. Do a work in my life God. Raise me up out of my own sin and put a new, clean heart within me. Thank you God for cleaning me from the inside out! Amen.

READ: Mark 7:24-30

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 7:14-15

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Why does Jesus initially reject this gentile woman’s request, and what does he demonstrate by reversing his decision? What does Mark want us to know in this story about how Jesus responds to people?

KEY INSIGHTS:

ACTION: To have a welcoming spirit is to have the spirit of Christ. Think about people you may be excluding from your life. Write down a person or a group of people who are somewhat “unwelcome” in your life. They could be the poor or the rich, of a different race or even a family member. Give those names to Jesus and ask Him to work on your heart.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, guide me today in aligning my heart with your heart. Guide me in becoming a more welcoming person. Thank you for modeling this to me by healing a Gentile woman’s daughter. Jesus, following you is not easy, but following you is the best way to live life! Amen.

READ: Mark 7:31-37

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 7:14-15

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Mark’s Gospel emphasizes continuously the miracle work of Jesus. Mark expresses the promises of God through Jesus both in heaven and on earth. Jesus is more than a miracle worker, healing is happening. What is the true source of healing? What does the crowd’s response teach us about God?

KEY INSIGHTS:

ACTION: All healing is of God. Healing happens to bring glory to God. Name a time you experienced healing. Write down your feelings about that time in your life. Reflect, give thanks to God and share with someone else.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for healing me. Thank you for showing me your glory. My thankfulness never seems like enough. I want others to know of your healing power. Help me to share my personal experiences with others when the opportunity arises. Put someone in my path that I can minister to today. Amen.

READ: Mark 8:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 7:14-15

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Notice that Jesus is asked for a sign right after he has performed a miraculous feeding. The Pharisees and disciples both have trouble believing in Jesus for different reasons. Why do they ask Jesus to provide a sign when the hungry are fed, the deaf hear, the mute speak, and the crowds hear the gospel? What does it take for people to believe?

KEY INSIGHTS:

ACTION: Look around you. The miracles of life are everywhere. The activity of God is near. Today, spend some quiet time reflecting on the wonders of God that surround you. Write down what you see.

PRAYER: God of wonders, your handiwork is everywhere! I stand amazed in the presence of your Creation. I marvel at what I see around me. Today, I’m thankful for the opportunity to pause and consider all the ways you are at work in your world. Simply amazing. Amen.