

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Five loaves, two fish, twelve hard hearts – Mark 6

1. After all that Jesus has been doing in Mark 1-5, what sort of reception would you expect him to get in his hometown?
2. Think back to Mark 4. What sort of soil could be used to describe those in Nazareth?
3. What amazed Jesus in v6? Why could he do no mighty work there? Read also Matthew 7:6.
4. Jesus sends out the twelve in v7-12. What are the three elements of their mission?
5. In v14-29 we are given an account of the death of John. If John is the forerunner for Jesus; what are the implications for Jesus' future? You may find reading Mark 12:1-12 helpful here.
6. When Jesus saw that the crowds were 'like sheep without a shepherd' (v34) what is his response? What does he do? How does this shape our understanding of the priority of Christian teaching?
7. Jesus feeds a great multitude in a desolate place. What does it suggest that there were so many leftovers – v43?
8. Why do you think this is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels?
9. Read these Old Testament passages. Job 9:8; Psalm 77:19; Isaiah 43:16. What is the significance of Jesus walking on water?
10. The disciples are astounded because they didn't grasp the significance of the loaves. Their hearts were hardened. How can you prevent your own heart from becoming hardened? Pray about this now.
11. V53 – People keep bringing the sick and the afflicted to Jesus. What did Jesus offer people in the first century? What does he offer us now?

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TALK OUTLINE – 19 February 2012
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Success stories...

Offended by Jesus (6:1-6)

Authority for mission (6:1-2)

Jesus asks the impossible (6:37)

More than a miracle

Back to the Exodus, forward to the heavenly banquet

The danger of underestimating Jesus