



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

### Mark 6:45-56 Jesus walks on water (25 July)

Like the feeding of the five thousand, this is a “nature miracle” with a deeper significance. It is one of the clearest revelations of Jesus’ divine nature: his authority over the sea as he rescues his disciples. He does what only God can do (see Job 9:8), while still controlling when, where and to whom he reveals his true identity. For the Jewish people, the sea was often seen as a symbol of evil, so Jesus is demonstrating his power not only over the forces of nature, but over evil itself.

Jesus comes to his people who are fearful and needy and says, “Take courage. It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

1. What emotions did the disciples go through?
2. “He was about to pass them by” (v.48). What do you think Mark is telling us in this phrase?
3. What does this passage say to you about Christian discipleship?
4. Why do you think the disciples’ hearts were hardened, despite having witnessed two miracles which demonstrated Jesus’ power? Why is faith sometimes difficult?
5. How might the disciples have reacted if they had understood the message about the loaves?
6. In v.50, Jesus says, “Take courage! It is I (literally *I am*)!” In the light of Exodus 3:14, what is Mark telling us about Jesus?
7. Imagine being one of the twelve at the feeding of the crowd and then in the boat. What would it have been like? What would be your impression of Jesus?
8. Compare v.55-56 with v.5-6 of this chapter. Why the difference?
9. Look again at v.45-52. What can we learn from the disciples’ behaviour about how we can also be weak and fail as Christians?
10. In what situations do we find it hard to trust Jesus? What do we need to do to avoid the mistakes of the disciples?
11. Read Psalm 69:1-3 & 13-15. Are any members of the group able to share experiences like that?

*This series on Mark’s gospel will continue until the beginning of September.*