

# 05

MARK 7:24-37; 8:11-21

## JESUS'S COMPASSION



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Trust doesn't always come easy to us. We often assume people aren't going to be kind because we've seen so much unkindness. Sometimes they surprise us but not always. Fortunately, there's someone to whom we can always turn when we need help: Jesus. We can be sure that He will never turn us away when we come to Him in need. Today, we'll watch Jesus bless people who were considered social outcasts by others in their society. We'll watch Him confront spiritual impostors and show patience to His disciples, who were really slow to understand what He had worked so hard to teach them. We'll learn to trust Jesus because He never shames or embarrasses people in need or makes them feel "less than."



### CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus shows compassion for everyone.



EXPLORE

# scripture

MARK 7:24-37; 8:11-21

## MARK 7:24-30

24 He got up and departed from there to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, but he could not escape notice. 25 Instead, immediately after hearing about him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit came and fell at his feet. 26 The woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth, and she was asking him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to

her, "Let the children be fed first, because it isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she replied to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he told her, "Because of this reply, you may go. The demon has left your daughter." 30 When she went back to her home, she found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

## MARK 7:31-37

31 Again, leaving the region of Tyre, he went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had difficulty speaking and begged Jesus to lay his hand on him. 33 So he took him away from the crowd in private. After putting his fingers in the man's ears and spitting, he touched his tongue. 34 Looking up to heaven, he sighed deeply and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*"

(that is, "Be opened!"). 35 Immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak clearly. 36 He ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more they proclaimed it. 37 They were extremely astonished and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

## MARK 8:11-21

11 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, demanding of him a sign from heaven to test him. 12 Sighing deeply in his spirit, he said, "Why does this generation demand a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 Then he left them, got back into the boat, and went to the other side. 14 The disciples had forgotten to take bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 Then he gave them strict orders: "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 They were discussing among themselves that they did not have any bread. 17 Aware of this, he said to

them, "Why are you discussing the fact you have no bread? Don't you understand or comprehend? Do you have hardened hearts? 18 Do you have eyes and not see; do you have ears and not hear? And do you not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of leftovers did you collect?" "Twelve," they told him. 20 "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you collect?" "Seven," they said. 21 And he said to them, "Don't you understand yet?"

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE MARK 7:6

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# MARK 7:24-30

## DWELL

When the woman in this story approached Jesus, He was tired and just wanted to get alone and rest. Remember, even though He was fully God, He was fully human, too—His body had the same human limits ours do. Even so, He took time to talk to the woman and meet her need. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father in His glorified form. He doesn't get tired anymore. If He was willing to meet this woman's needs then, imagine how ready He is to meet your needs now!

← Mark's intended audience was the Gentiles, people who weren't originally part of God's "chosen" nation. How do you think this story encouraged them?

↔ What changes do you need to make in the way you interact with people to imitate Jesus's behavior in this story?

## MEMORIZE

Write Mark 7:6 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

## PRAY

Thank God for including us in His plan to save the world from sin. Ask God to give you an opportunity to show love to someone who feels unloved today.

day 2

# MARK 7:31-37

## DWELL

The man in this story wasn't blind or crippled; he could have come to Jesus on his own. But the Bible says a bunch of people brought him to Jesus. He was obviously willing to be healed, but he didn't take the initiative. We don't know why—maybe he had been disappointed by other people who had promised to help. Maybe he didn't think he was worthy enough to ask for anything from Jesus. Maybe he didn't think enough of himself to get the help he needed. Whatever the case, Jesus changed his life forever, thanks to the initiative of the man's friends.



What can happen when we base our interaction with Jesus on our own experiences and assumptions?

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How could you encourage someone who is hesitant to approach Jesus this week?

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## MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 7:6 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

## PRAY

Thank God for people who redirect you toward Jesus and demonstrate His love to you. Ask God to help you be that for others.

day 3

# MARK 8:11-13

## DWELL

When the Pharisees demanded a sign of Jesus, He told them they wouldn't get a sign from Him. In fact, He had already given them plenty of signs! Nothing Jesus does impresses people who have already decided not to believe in Him, so there's no point in trying to convince them. Jesus knew this, but He also wasn't going to do what they said and make them think they could control or manipulate God. That wouldn't have served them or God's purposes.



How can you respond to people who are dead set against God and the gospel?

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Why do people often miss the very proof of God's existence that they're looking for? How can you make sure this doesn't happen to you?

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## MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 7:6 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

## PRAY

Thank God for proving His existence and love every day in a million ways. Ask Him to open your eyes to His activity in the world so you can point it out to others and let it make its own argument for God.

day 4

# MARK 8:14-21

## DWELL

The disciples were so busy worrying about food—food that Jesus had already proven He could provide—that they nearly missed the new lesson Jesus was trying to teach them. It was an important one, too! Unfortunately, we do the same thing. We don't mean to. We just forget sometimes that God is more real than our circumstances. We worry about things He already has handled and miss the chance to grow and learn. Worry is unproductive thought, and unproductive thought is any that doesn't factor in God. Jesus says we don't have to worry (see Matt. 6:25), so let's not!

↑ What does Jesus's response to the disciples in this story tell you about the way God deals with us?

↻ What kinds of things do you tend to worry about? How could talking to God help?

## MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 7:6 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

## PRAY

Thank God for being willing to teach you the same things as often as necessary. Ask Him to get your attention when you start to worry so you can remind yourself Who He is and move on to learn new things.

day 5

# MARK 8:1-10

## DWELL

It might have been the crowd's fault they didn't have anything to eat, but that didn't keep Jesus from feeling compassion for them and taking care of them. We tend to dole out compassion and love only to those we think are victims and leave people who are responsible for their own suffering to fend for themselves. This isn't the kind of love we are called to as followers of Jesus (see John 13:34). He felt compassion for everyone, and He helped anyone who would humble themselves enough to let Him. We must do the same.

↻ Why do you think there are so many stories in the Gospels about Jesus feeding people? How can this encourage you?

↔ The people in this story didn't ask Jesus to feed them; He just did. What steps can you take to love the people you know like this?

## MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 7:6 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

## PRAY

Thank God for knowing your needs and working to meet them before you even ask. Ask God to meet the needs of others through you today.