



# who is Jesus? MARK THE GOSPEL OF

## Discussion Questions

1. Read Mark 6:45-56. Why do you think Jesus intended to “pass by” the disciples? Why did He not just help them as they were struggling and tired?
2. Read 1 Kings 19:9-13 and Exodus 33:12-23. What do these passages have in common with each other and with the story of Jesus walking on the water?
3. In Mark 6:50, Jesus says “Take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.” The Greek there is literally “Take courage, I am. Do not be afraid.” What was Jesus saying? (Take a look at Exodus 3:13-14).
4. Do these Old Testament references help you to answer the first question? What does it mean that Jesus was “passing by”?
5. What did Elijah do with His cloak when God passed by (1 Kings 19:13)? What did God do for Moses (Exodus 33:20-23)?
6. Why could Moses and Elijah not look at God? How did Jesus change that?
7. Read Mark 7:1-30. What does Jesus mean in verses 20-23?
8. Jesus is saying that you don’t sin because you are influenced by the outside, you sin because it pours out of your wicked heart. Do you agree with that? Have you thought much about it?
9. Romans 8:7-8 says ‘The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.’ The flesh means our sinful human nature, or as Jesus puts it, “our hearts”. How is this understanding of sin different from the understanding that the Pharisees had (and we often have)?
10. If we understand that our own sin runs so deep that our hearts hate God, how does that change the way we think of others? The Jewish people thought Gentiles were sinful and dirty. They called them dogs. Jesus used this racial slur to test the heart of the gentile woman who came to Him, but instead of being offended, how did she respond (verses 27-28)?
11. Jesus came to show us God and to rescue us from our slavery to sin. Are you experiencing discouragement and fear like the disciples in the boat? How does this help with that? Are you experiencing spiritual pride like the Pharisees? How does this help you to be more like the Gentile woman?