Mark 6
Jesus is rejected and hurt by people but He is still good to them

Previously…

Jesus has just cast out many demons from a man, raised a girl from the dead and healed a woman with a blood disorder, thus demonstrating the kind of authority that normally belongs to God. However, the following stories introduce sadness into the life of Jesus in that he is rejected by those who should have known him best and by the death of John the Baptist. At the same time, Jesus plans for the future by choosing the Twelve while also demonstrating that he authoritatively functions with the hallmarks that belong to God:-

➢ **Jesus is rejected at Nazareth**	6:1-6
➢ **Jesus commissions his disciples to do what he has been doing**	6:7-12, 30-31
➢ **John the Baptist dies**	6:13-29
➢ **Jesus feeds thousands**	6:32-44
➢ **Jesus walks on the water**	6:45-52
➢ **Jesus heals people**	6:53-56

Read chapter 6 before exploring the following verses that represent key elements in understanding main themes of the chapter.

Jesus walks on the water (6:45-52)

Can you imagine how it may have felt for Jesus to have walked on the water?

Why do you think Jesus chose to stay and pray after sending the disciples to the other side of the lake?

Why did Jesus send them across to the other side of the lake and not have them wait for him instead?

Imagine if you were one of the disciples. How might you have felt before you saw Jesus walking on the water?

Only Mark records that Jesus intended to pass them by. Why might Jesus have chosen to walk past them?

Do you think that they needed Jesus to help them reach their destination?

Do you think Jesus may have wanted them to see him walking on the water? If so, why?

That Jesus walks on the water is reminiscent of God ('He tramples the waves of the sea', Job 9:8; 'Your way was through the sea…yet your footprints were unseen', Ps. 77:19) as a result of which he is to be worshipped (Ps. 107:31-32).

Before spending time on his own, Jesus summoned the disciples to go to the other side of the lake. What can you learn from this story about any commissions that Jesus may give to you?

Can you take comfort from the mixed feelings of the disciples after Jesus had got into their boat?

This miracle of Jesus walking on the water follows the feeding of the 5000 - in Matthew, Mark and John. What do you learn about Jesus from these combined stories?

Verse for Meditation

6:50 - …"*Take heart: it is I (literally 'I am'). Do not be afraid".*

PRONOUNCE	**each word, one at a time**
PARAPHRASE	**the verse by putting it in your own words**
POSE	**questions of the verse – why, what, how…?**
APPLY	**it personally and practically**

Personal questions

What lesson do I learn from these verses?

What truth concerning Jesus can I apply to my life this week?

Prayer:

Jesus, you know what it is to be disappointed; you can understand when I am hurt by the actions and words of others. Thank you also that you are prepared to allow me to partner you in fulfilling your mission. Help me to believe that your desire is that we work together – even though you are God and therefore capable of doing everything without my help. When I fear that I cannot do what you ask of me, please remind me that not only do you commission me but you also provide me with your resources.

Practical Application

Undertake one of the following in order to creatively apply the message of the chapter. Bring your work and share it with your friends.

- **Write a short poem or prose reflecting an aspect of the chapter**
- **Creatively re-tell an aspect of the story, writing it in less than 50 words**
- **In less than 12 words, capture a personal lesson that resulted from the study together**
- **Paint or draw an aspect of the passage explored**
- **Bring or create some music that related to the study**
- **Share an answer to prayer that related to the passage studied**
- **With one or two others, act a scene of the story, re-telling it graphically**