

Amazed - or Following?

Mark 6:1–6 • Small Group Discussion Guide

BIG IDEA

Jesus did not come merely to be admired. He came to be followed. Biblical faith moves beyond amazement to surrender—wherever He leads and whatever He asks.

READ TOGETHER

Mark 6:1–6 Read the passage slowly. Invite the group to listen for what amazes the people, what offends them, and what amazes Jesus.

OPENING QUESTION

What is something you once found amazing but gradually began to take for granted?

Leader note: Keep this light at first—technology, a place, a relationship, a routine, or a gift. Then connect it to how familiarity can dull our sense of wonder and response.

DISCUSSION

1. What stands out to you in Mark 6:1–6?

Leader help: Notice the movement from amazement to offense and from familiarity to unbelief. Let several people answer before moving on.

2. The people of Nazareth did not deny Jesus' wisdom or power. Why do you think they still refused to follow where the evidence led?

Leader help: Help the group see that the issue was not simply lack of information. Accepting who Jesus was would require surrender, repentance, and a reordering of their lives.

3. Compare the people of Nazareth with Jairus and the suffering woman in Mark 5. What did each person or group see, and how did they respond?

Leader help: Jairus fell at Jesus' feet. The woman reached for His robe. Nazareth was amazed but took offense. The contrast is not how much evidence they had, but what they did with it.

4. What is the difference between admiring Jesus and following Jesus?

Leader help: Possible follow-up: Where is it easiest to admire His compassion, wisdom, or power from a distance without allowing Him to lead us personally?

5. Which statement from the message challenges you most—and why?

Leader help: Read these aloud if helpful: "I cannot simply be amazed; I have to follow." "I cannot simply be impressed; I have to surrender." "I cannot fit Jesus into the life I have already chosen."

6. Familiarity with Jesus can be a gift, but it can also become something we take for granted. What are some signs that faith has become routine rather than responsive?

Leader help: Listen for answers such as worship without attention, Scripture without obedience, church attendance without surrender, or saying "amen" while resisting change.

7. Is there an area where you are comfortable with Jesus as Savior but resist Him as Lord?

Leader help: Do not rush this question. Allow silence. Encourage honesty without pressuring anyone to disclose more than they are ready to share.

8. The message says, “Faith does not place God under our control; faith places us under His care.” How does that help us think about unanswered prayer, suffering, or waiting?

Leader help: Connect this to the woman who suffered twelve years, Jairus hearing that his daughter had died, and the truth that faith trusts who Jesus is even when we do not understand what He is doing.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

- What has Jesus been asking you to surrender that you keep holding onto?
- Where might He be asking you to bring your life into alignment with His?
- What would following Jesus look like in one concrete decision this week?

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name one area where they want greater trust or surrender. Pray that your group will not merely be amazed by Jesus, but will follow Him wherever He leads and whatever He asks.

Suggested prayer: “Jesus, keep our familiarity from becoming indifference. Open our hearts to Your truth, give us courage to surrender, and teach us to trust You even when we do not understand. May our faith—not our unbelief—amaze You. Amen.”

LEADER OVERVIEW

Focus	Guidance
Main truth	The people of Nazareth had enough evidence to be amazed, but they resisted what believing would require. Jesus calls us beyond admiration to surrender and obedience.
Tone	Be invitational rather than accusatory. The sermon itself models humility: “Those are the things I struggle with.” Encourage honest reflection.
Important clarification	Mark 6 does not teach that every unhealed person simply lacks faith. Faith does not control God; it trusts God and places us under His care.
Best place to linger	Questions 4, 7, and 8. They move from understanding the text to personal surrender and trust.
Closing goal	Each person should identify one practical way to follow Jesus this week—not merely agree that He is impressive.