

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO AMAZE GOD?

Mark 6:1-6 | Familiarity, Faith, and Following Jesus

MAIN IDEA

It is possible to know a great deal about Jesus and still resist His authority. Biblical faith moves beyond being impressed by Jesus to trusting, surrendering to, and following Him.

ICEBREAKER

What is one sound, song, smell, or place that immediately takes you “back home”? What memories does it bring with it?

Keep this light and personal. The purpose is to help the group think about how home shapes our memories—and how people who knew us long ago may have difficulty seeing who we have become.

READ THE TEXT

Read Mark 6:1-6 aloud. If time allows, ask a second person to read it again from another translation.

- 1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.
- 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?”
- 3 “Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.
- 4 Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”
- 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.
- 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you most in this passage—and why?

HELP FOR LEADERS: Give people room to respond before directing the conversation. Possible observations include the people’s amazement, their familiarity with Jesus, their offense, Jesus’ limited miracles, or His amazement at their unbelief.

2. The people of Nazareth did not deny Jesus’ wisdom or His miracles. Why do you think they still refused to believe what those things revealed about Him?

HELP FOR LEADERS: Help the group see that the issue was not simply a lack of evidence. Believing would require humility, repentance, surrender, and an acknowledgment that the hometown carpenter was their Lord.

3. They asked, “Isn’t this the carpenter?” How can familiarity with a person—or with church and Scripture—keep us from hearing what God may be saying?

HELP FOR LEADERS: This is not permission to accept every message uncritically. The point is that we can become so focused on the messenger’s age, style, background, history, or imperfections that we stop listening to truth. Ask gently where familiarity may have produced spiritual dullness.

4. What is the difference between being impressed by Jesus and actually believing in Jesus?

HELP FOR LEADERS: Being impressed admires His teaching or power. Biblical faith trusts who He is, receives His grace, submits to His authority, and follows where He leads. You may use the phrase: “Faith follows—wherever that leads and whatever that demands.”

5. Jesus' miracles were signs pointing to His identity. What does verse 5 teach—and what does it not teach—about faith and healing?

HELP FOR LEADERS: *Emphasize that Jesus had not lost His power; the issue was their unwillingness to receive Him. Also clarify that the passage does not teach that every unhealed person lacks faith. The woman suffered twelve years, and Jairus still endured devastating news. Faith does not place God under our control; faith places us under His care.*

6. Have you become so familiar with Jesus that you have stopped listening? Where might He be asking you to trust, surrender, forgive, change, or follow?

HELP FOR LEADERS: *Allow a quiet pause. Encourage specific but appropriate responses. This question is the heart of the study: not merely “Do I know the stories?” but “Am I presently following the Savior?”*

OPTIONAL FOLLOW-UP

Who is someone close to you who does not yet believe -or who has drifted from faith? How can this group pray for that person without giving up hope?

At this point even Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him, but after the resurrection James and Jude became believers and leaders in the church. Their unbelief at one point did not place them beyond God's reach.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, do not let us become so familiar with You that we stop listening. For anyone who has never placed their faith in You, give them courage to believe, receive Your forgiveness, and follow You. For those who have received You as Savior but resisted You as Lord, help us surrender every part of our lives. And for those who have known Your story for years, help us ask honestly whether we are still following. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts that believe. Amen.

TAKEAWAY: Biblical faith is more than being amazed by Jesus. Faith trusts Him, surrenders to Him, and follows Him.