

## WEEK 12: MARK 5 - NAZARETH DIVIDED - DOUBTERS & DISCIPLES; ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

HIGH SCHOOL

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 6:1-56

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 49-57

*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 84-105

## GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 6

### Read verses 1-3 and then discuss:

Let's find the map in our Bible of Jesus' time and locate Nazareth in relation to Capernaum. Jesus had been primarily working in Capernaum and now He had traveled back to where He grew up in Nazareth. The people in His hometown were shocked when they heard Him preaching in the synagogue because they had never heard Jesus teach or see Him work miracles. They knew Jesus and His family well and were trying to process why He was preaching with such authority!

### Verses 4-6:

Jesus was unable to work miracles in Nazareth because of their unbelief.

### Verses 7-13:

Jesus is not the only one to teach. He also sends out the disciples in groups of two to teach in the villages. Jesus tells them not to take anything with them - not money, not food - nothing. This is to teach through example that possessions are not important. God will take care of their needs. What is the difference between something you need and something you want?

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**Verses 14-29:**

Here, we learn about the death of St. John the Baptist. Has there ever been a time in your life when you knew you should stand up for something that is right but you were too afraid to say anything? St. John did not shy away from telling Herod that he was wrong, even though it ultimately ended with his own death.

**Verses 30-44:**

An immense crowd had gathered again - 5,000 men and additionally the women and children with them - in order to listen to Jesus all day long. The disciples knew that they had a big problem approaching. There was absolutely no way they could go anywhere to buy enough food to feed everyone present. Could you order pizza delivery for 5,000 people plus their families and expect it to arrive in a short amount of time? Of course not. It was an even bigger problem in Jesus' time because there were not restaurants or grocery stores around like we have today. There were not any options for a crowd of that size, especially in the wilderness, to feed their families. They would have to start traveling to all of the surrounding areas - farms and villages - in hopes of being able to find food to buy. It was an intense situation!

Jesus knew this and took care of everyone present. The disciples had two fish and five loaves of bread. Jesus blessed this food and not only did it feed everyone, but there were leftovers! It is not by coincidence that 12 baskets of leftovers were gathered. Each of the disciples filled their basket with the leftovers of the crowd. God had fed the Israelites in the desert and He also fed the people in the presence of the Messiah, Jesus.

**Verses 45-52:**

God permits us to be tested in life in order to provide us the opportunity to believe in Him. It is our choice whether we do so or not.

**Verses 53-56:**

Jesus and His disciples are visiting a place they've already been to in the past - the people recognize Jesus. They are rushing to bring their sick and injured to be healed by Jesus, even if just by touching the hem of His clothes. At this point, they had all heard of the miracle that happened to the woman with the flow of blood for twelve years and believed they could be healed as well if they were able to get close enough to touch even the edge of His clothes!

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## REVIEW:

- Was Jesus able to help those who did not believe in Him? How do you think this relates to your own life?
- Did Jesus take care of the needs of the people around Him? How do you think this relates to your own life? Are needs and wants the same?

## WEEK 12: MARK 5 - NAZARETH DIVIDED - DOUBTERS & DISCIPLES; ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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3RD - 4TH GRADE

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1ST - 2ND GRADE

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 6:1-56

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Children's Bible Reader; 101 Orthodox Saints; Felt Characters in Classroom; Fish and Bread

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 49-57

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### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 6

**Read about St. John the Baptist in 101 Orthodox Saints: page 59**

- What is the name of our parish? (*St. John the Baptist*)
- Who were St. John the Baptist's parents? (*Zacharias and Elizabeth*)
- How is St. John related to Jesus? (*They are cousins*)
- What did God call St. John to do? (*To tell everyone to repent / to seek forgiveness! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!*)

**Read or summarize the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus Walks on the Water: pages 210-212 of the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader**

- Use the felt characters to help tell the stories
- Narrate the stories while having the students act it out using fish and bread and pretend a table is the boat and the floor is water

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## REVIEW:

- What is the name of our parish?
- Who is St. John the Baptist? How is he related to Jesus? Who are his parents?
- What did God call St. John to do?
- What happened when Jesus was teaching a crowd of 5,000 around Him and they were hungry?
- How did Jesus get to His disciples who were on a boat?

## WEEK 12: MARK 5 - NAZARETH DIVIDED - DOUBTERS & DISCIPLES; ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

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