



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Devalued: Inhospitable

Read Mark 6

- When Jesus returns to his hometown, his own people take offense at him. Have you ever felt rejected or unappreciated in a place where you expected to be accepted? How did you respond?
- Jesus's hometown took offense because they couldn't see past his human origins—he was just "the carpenter." Where do you find yourself focusing on the human or familiar aspects of Jesus rather than his divinity and authority?
- Jesus sends out his disciples "two by two" with very specific instructions, including taking nothing for the journey except a staff. What does this minimalist approach teach us about dependence on God and community for the mission?
- In the face of rejection, Jesus instructs his disciples to "shake the dust off your feet." This is a symbolic act of peace, not retaliation or destruction. In what areas of your life (relationships, work, etc.) do you need to "shake the dust" and release a situation to God without holding on to bitterness or offense?
- What does the "shaking the dust" instruction reveal about the nature of the mission of God? What does it teach us about when to persist and when to move on?

The disciples return with reports of their success. What does their experience teach us about the tension between our human efforts and God's power in the mission?

This week, what is one area of your life where you can trust God to see you through the everyday, especially when it feels like you have nothing to rely on? This week, who are you being invited to live on mission with? This week, where do you need to "shake the dust" without seeking harm, and how can you do so in a way that is loving and peaceful?