



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?

Do You Still Not Understand?

Read Mark 8:1-26

Jesus performs what seems like a very public miracle, feeding the four thousand. But when the Pharisees ask him for a sign, he says - "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." Why do you think Jesus was reluctant to give the Pharisees a sign?

The disciples are concerned about their own bread for the journey they have. Why do we so easily forget God's past provision? What do you think Jesus means by "the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod"? Where do you see this kind of temptation today for the followers of Jesus?

Of all the four Gospel's Mark's presents the most emphasis on the human characteristics of Jesus. In the healing of the blind man, why might the blind man's sight have healed gradually instead of instantly?

Jesus is patient with his disciples in their lack of understanding, and their narrow view of his mission. How might our view of Jesus need to expand to match his true mission?

This week, is there some aspect of your faith journey or relationship with Jesus, where you would confess "I don't understand?"

This week, is there someone in your life that you don't understand, that you might find a way to know better through curiosity and compassion?

This week, is there an area of your walk with Jesus that has been affected by the "yeast of the Pharisees" that you can identify, and confess to Jesus in trust and faithfulness to him?