

Small Group Discussion Guide

MARK 6:1-13

“Undeterred”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 12/28/25

Background

“Is not this the carpenter?” This question in Greek expects a positive reply. It’s like saying, “He’s *just* a carpenter.” The point is that the people in Jesus’ hometown believed no common person living in Nazareth could be a major figure used by God. Rather than embracing Jesus as the promised Messiah, and praising God for choosing Nazareth for such an esteemed honor, Jesus’ hometown responded with resentment and disbelief. Sometimes even the people that know us best can discourage, or even reject, us.

Verses 7-13 marks a turning point in Jesus’ ministry. Before his rejection, only Jesus preached the gospel, healed diseases, performed miracles, and confronted the unbelief of Israel’s religious leaders. Jesus takes the next step in making the disciples “fishers of men” by sending them out and giving them authority. They needed to depend on God and the hospitality of others for their housing and food. Jesus was preparing them for when He is no longer with them, and we know that the message of Christ through the disciples would one day change the world.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Have you ever had a “hometown moment” – a time when people who knew you best couldn’t believe you’d changed or couldn’t believe the person you had become? Share an example, funny or serious.

Observation

2. Read Mark 6:1-13. How do the people respond emotionally and verbally to Jesus’ teaching? What specific objections do they raise?
3. What do we learn about Jesus’ earthly family from this passage?
4. In verses 7–13, what instructions does Jesus give the Twelve? What items does He forbid them to take?

5. What does Mark say Jesus “marveled” at? What does that reveal about the situation?

Interpretation

6. What does Jesus mean when He says, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” (v. 4)? How does this fit the scene?
7. What is the significance of Jesus telling them to travel light — no bag, no money, no extra tunic? What spiritual principles might He be teaching them?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:55–58. How does Mark 6:1-13 connect with this passage in 1 Corinthians?

Application

9. What might it look like to honor the “prophets” in your own life — the people God uses to speak truth, even when it’s hard to hear?
10. What would it look like for you to “travel light” in your own discipleship — to rely more on God’s provision than your own resources?
11. Who is someone you could partner with “two by two” in ministry, accountability, or prayer?