

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**JANUARY 8, 2016**

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

## GETTING STARTED

1. What was your hometown reputation? What “group” did you run with in high school? What is it like for you to visit your hometown now?

## DIGGING IN

2. Read Mark 6:1-6, where Jesus visits his hometown. In verses 1-3, what mixed emotions did the townspeople experience in this encounter with Jesus? What questions did they ask? Why do you think they felt these tensions?
3. What do we learn from Jesus’ quote in verse 4 that “a prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown”? Do you agree with Jesus’ statement? Why do you think this is true?
4. What do verses 5-6 say about the miraculous work that Jesus was able to do in that area? What reason is given for this? How do we reconcile this instance with Jesus’ ability to perform miracles elsewhere and his ability to heal here, though only in individual cases?
5. Jesus “marveled because of their unbelief.” If you consider it from his perspective, why was Jesus so amazed at their lack of faith? Why do you think Jesus is unwilling to demonstrate his power where people are unwilling to believe in him? What does this say about his larger mission?
6. Read Mark 6:7-13. What observations can we make about the way Jesus sent out his disciples and the instructions he gave them? What principles do we learn about ministry from these verses?

## LIVING IT OUT

7. What are some specific ways that people in our time have tensions and mixed emotions with Jesus? What aspects of Jesus’ life, message, and mission do people find attractive today? What aspects of Jesus’ life, message, and mission do find people offensive today?
8. Are you ever tempted to soften, accommodate, or change the message of Jesus to make him more appealing to yourself or to others? Why do you think Christians feel this temptation? Why should we resist it?
9. In this passage, Jesus “marveled because of their unbelief.” Why should we trust him more deeply? How does faith sometimes require us to believe something that is contrary to our experiences or feelings?
10. Have you ever embraced your purpose in the mission of Jesus as one who has been sent out to carry his message and his life to others? Why or why not?
11. Being sent out by Jesus on mission requires we act with both courage and compassion. How can we act with compassion and love for others without compromising the message and mission of Jesus? In what ways do you personally find this difficult?