Surrounded

Leader Guide | Week 4

Key Things You Heard

– Jesus consistently draws crowds.

– Jesus compassionately loves crowds.

– Jesus strategically resists crowds.

– Jesus courageously defies the crowd.

Pray

Heavenly Father, if we are honest, we are too often swayed by the crowds. Sometimes, it is in the spur of the moment. We are sometimes persuaded over time, believing that the crowd is right because they have been saying something for so long. Help us to learn to compassionately love the crowds, strategically resist the crowds, and courageously defy the crowd, when they are screaming what is contrary to your will for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tweetable Moments

"The reality is, if Jesus were here today, he'd look us all in the eye and say, 'Deny yourself. Take up your cross and follow me.'"

"If Jesus were here today, he'd look us straight in the eyes, into the idols of our hearts, and he'd call us to repent."

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Questions for Conversation

Icebreaker: What is the biggest crowd you have ever been in, and what was your experience?

– Mark's gospel relates Jesus' interaction with crowds more than any other gospel. In it, we see that Jesus:

- Consistently draws crowds.

- Compassionately loves crowds.

- Strategically resists crowds.

- Courageously defies the crowd.

Read each of the following scriptures and decide which category, or categories, they belong in.

- Mark 6: 32-34

- Mark 6:30-34

- Mark 4:1-20

- Mark 8:34

- Mark 4:33-34

– Take each of the four categories mentioned above and answer the following questions:

- How do these categories apply to the church today?

- Does knowing this give me insight into how I can live my life personally?

– In what areas of your life do you tend to follow the crowd? Why? What will you have to change to resist the crowd?

Now Go Do It (resources and next steps)

Challenge: If you are coming to church but are staying in the crowd, set an appointment with your Campus Pastor and discuss how you can change this in your life.