

# LESSON FIVE | MARK 6

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WELCOME

*Who is Jesus?*  
2–3 mins.

### DRILL TIME

*John the Baptist*  
3–5 mins.

### W.O.W!

*Amazed*  
3–5 mins.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
2–3 mins.

### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

*Mark 6*  
20–30 mins.

### LESSON-AT-HOME

*Hebrews 13:8*  
3–5 mins.

## OVERVIEW

Mark 6 begins with Jesus back in his hometown. The townspeople are amazed that this local carpenter's son can preach and do powerful miracles. Instead of putting their faith in Him, they take offense, limiting what Jesus can do among the people. He is amazed at their unbelief!

Then Jesus sent out the Twelve with His power and authority. They were to preach, cast out demons, and heal the sick in whatever towns they were received. Through their work, Jesus' name became so popular that King Herod started to take notice. He wrongly thought that Jesus was just John the Baptist risen from the dead! We are then told the story of how Herodias manipulated Herod into putting John's head on a platter.

The chapter continues with Jesus feeding the five thousand. He fed these people spiritually, then fed them physically in miraculous form. He even produced an abundance from those few loaves and fishes. Finally, we see Jesus walking on the water in order to calm the wind and the waves for His disciples yet again. They too were amazed by the power of God, even though their hearts were hard. The chapter ends with Jesus going about his usual business, preaching to large crowds and healing many.

## PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Mark 6 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures. The Bible Investigation time is a bit longer than usual, so adjust your timing as necessary.**

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Witnessing a miracle does bring great amazement. Yet, being amazed does not necessarily lead us to Christ! We do want our children to be amazed by the miracles we read about in the Gospels. But don't let them stop there! Urge them on to faith in Christ. Teach them that these demonstrations of power are to draw their attention to the God who controls the universe. Amazement and astonishment only lasts for a time, while faith and true belief lasts a lifetime and saves our souls. Be passionate about the miracles of Christ, but don't let it stop there!



## WELCOME

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Say:** *We have been learning a lot about Jesus lately, haven't we? Who is Jesus? Allow answers.* Jesus is God, but Jesus is also fully human. So we can say that Jesus is the only God-Man. He is completely the Son of God, and He is completely the Son of Man. Jesus even uses those names for Himself.

*So, remember that Jesus had an earthly mother, father, brothers and even sisters. Yet His Heavenly Father is God the Father, and all who put their faith in Him are His brothers and sisters. Isn't that good news? We will read more about Jesus today.*



## DRILL TIME

*But first, let's move on to DRILL TIME— our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?*

**Today's questions:** *Who prepared the way for Jesus? What did John the Baptist look like? Where did John preach and baptize? What did he call on people to do? What happened when John baptized Jesus?*

**Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

**Answers:**

1. John the Baptist.
2. He wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist.
3. In the desert region.
4. To repent and receive forgiveness of sins.
5. The heavens were opened, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove, and God the Father spoke.

**Say:** *John the Baptist was the last of God's prophets. He was used by God to point the way to Jesus—to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. In our reading today, We will see John the Baptist for the last time in the Book of Mark.*



## W.O.W!

Are you ready to learn another word? Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **AMAZED**. Write the word on the board. What does it mean to be AMAZED? **Allow answers.**

To be AMAZED is to be filled with wonder and astonishment. We are AMAZED by things that are so very special and surprising. For example, most people are AMAZED every time they see a rainbow. It is so beautiful and mysterious, and only happens once in awhile.

What sorts of things AMAZE you? **Allow answers. Share your own answer.** Christians call God's grace AMAZING because it is something that AMAZES us. How can a holy God love unholy people like us? We should be AMAZED by God's grace every day.

We can also be AMAZED at how sinful people can be. We can be shocked and bewildered by it. It is also truly AMAZING that sinful people can be saved!

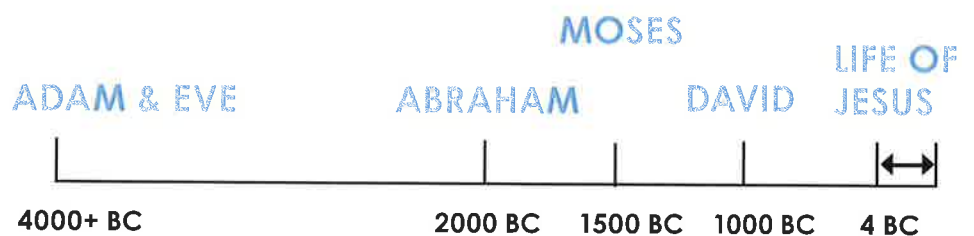
Listen for our Word of the Week. Not only will people be AMAZED, but even Jesus will be AMAZED!



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board, and show the students when these events took place.

### This Week's Timeline





**Introduction:** *Jesus continues to show His authority over nature, demons, and sickness and disease. At the end of our reading last time, Jesus even raised a young girl from the dead! Do you think people are starting to see that He is the Son of God, the Messiah? We'll continue our study of the life of Jesus in Mark 6.*

*Let's read. Read Mark 6:1-3.*

<sup>1</sup> He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?" <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

**Discussion:** *What were the townspeople AMAZED at? [That Jesus had wisdom and could do miracles.] The people of Jesus' hometown thought that Jesus was just a carpenter's son. They were AMAZED at His wisdom and power to do miracles. Did their AMAZEMENT lead them to put their FAITH in Jesus? [No.] Unfortunately, they just took offense and rejected Jesus.*

*Listen to more. Read verses 4-6a.*

<sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."

<sup>5</sup> And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And he marveled because of their unbelief.

**Application:** *Jesus was AMAZED too, wasn't He? What AMAZED Him? [Their lack of faith.] Jesus was AMAZED that people from His own hometown did not believe He was the Son of God. This lack of FAITH kept Jesus from accomplishing many miracles while He was at home. Isn't that sad? The miracles of Jesus and the powerful teaching of Jesus is truly AMAZING. We should be AMAZED by it. But being AMAZED by Jesus will not lead you to God unless you also put your FAITH in Him!*

*Let's continue. Read verses 6b-13.*

<sup>6</sup> And he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them



authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

**Discussion:** *What did Jesus send out His apostles to do? [To preach, to drive out demons, and to heal sick people.] How could the Twelve do these AMAZING things? [Jesus gave them authority to do these things.] And these Twelve disciples called apostles did preach and heal by the power of God. God used them to bring people to Jesus.*

*Let’s read more. Read verses 14-16.*

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” <sup>15</sup> But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

**Discussion:** *Who did King Herod think Jesus really was? [John the Baptist.] Others thought Jesus was Elijah back from the dead. Is Jesus just a great prophet like John or Elijah? [No.] Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah! Why did King Herod think Jesus was the risen John the Baptist? Maybe it’s because of what Herod did to John. He probably felt very guilty.*

*Listen to what King Herod did. Read verses 17-20.*

<sup>17</sup> For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because he had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.



**Discussion:** *It sounds like King Herod was AMAZED at John the Baptist's teaching, even though John told Herod he was wrong for marrying his brother's wife, Herodias. It was Herodias who wanted John killed. What would Herod do for his wife?*

*Listen to the rest of the story. Read verses 21-29.*

<sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." <sup>23</sup> And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." <sup>25</sup> And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup> And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. <sup>27</sup> And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison <sup>28</sup> and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**Discussion:** *Now do you understand why King Herod feels so guilty and thinks Jesus is just John risen from the dead? Herod was guilty of having John beheaded, even though it was his wife who manipulated the situation. John the Baptist had faithfully served God and was martyred as His prophet. This was a sad day for God's people.*

*Let's continue our investigating. Read verses 30-32.*

<sup>30</sup> The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

**Discussion:** *Stop there for a moment. What were the apostles telling Jesus? [About all they had done and taught.] The apostles returned from their mission all excited about the power of God. As usual, large*



*crowds were around, keeping the disciples from being able to talk with Jesus.*

**Application:** *The best way to talk with Jesus is by yourself, in a very quiet and solitary place! You can talk to Him every day.*

*Listen to what happens next. Read verses 33-37.*

<sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. <sup>36</sup> Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." <sup>37</sup> But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?"

**Discussion:** *They still couldn't avoid the large crowds, could they? So what did Jesus do? [He stopped and taught them all day.] Jesus taught the people because He had great love and compassion for them. But, it got very late, didn't it? How would they feed all of these hungry people whom Jesus had "fed" with His words? Who did Jesus put in charge? [The disciples.] Did they know how to feed the people? [No!]*

*Listen to what Jesus does. Read verses 38-44.*

<sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." <sup>39</sup> Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. <sup>41</sup> And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup> And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

**Discussion:** *How in the world could Jesus feed five thousand men, plus women and children, from just five small loaves of bread and*



two fish? **Allow answers.** What a miracle this was! Jesus has the power to multiply food and provide for everyone's needs. How many basketfuls of pieces were left over? [Twelve.] So Jesus provided an abundance. Does that AMAZE you?

**Application:** This miracle wasn't just about feeding a bunch of hungry people. It was a sign that pointed to Jesus as the true Bread of Life. He is the one who feeds our souls with His very life. He gives us such abundant blessings each and every day. Since Jesus is the giver of life, why would we go anywhere else for life except to Him?

Let's read a bit more. **Read verses 45-46.**

<sup>45</sup> Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

**Application:** Remember that Jesus often took time to pray to His Father all alone. We need this same alone time with God too!

Listen to what happens next. **Read verses 47-52.**

<sup>47</sup> And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup> And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, <sup>50</sup> for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." <sup>51</sup> And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup> for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

**Discussion:** Did you hear our Word of the Week? Who was AMAZED this time? [The disciples.] Who did they think was walking on the water? [A ghost.] Yet again, Jesus shows His power over the wind and the waves. This AMAZED the disciples, even though they still did not understand Jesus. They had hearts that were hardened by sin. We all need our hearts changed!

Let's finish our reading for today. **Read verses 53-56.**

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret



and moored to the shore. <sup>54</sup> And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him <sup>55</sup> and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

**Discussion:** *Does this sound familiar? Jesus continued to be recognized everywhere He went. And people were being healed, as they put their faith in Him. What AMAZING events!*

**Conclusion:** *Remember that you can be amazed by all that Jesus does but still not put your FAITH in Him. He calls us to wonder at God's grace and trust in Him alone for our salvation. Does Jesus continue to work powerfully in people's lives today, even though He doesn't walk the earth? Our memory verse gives us the answer.*



## LESSON-AT-HOME

**Distribute the "Lesson-At-Home" bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Hebrews 13:8) together.**

### **Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

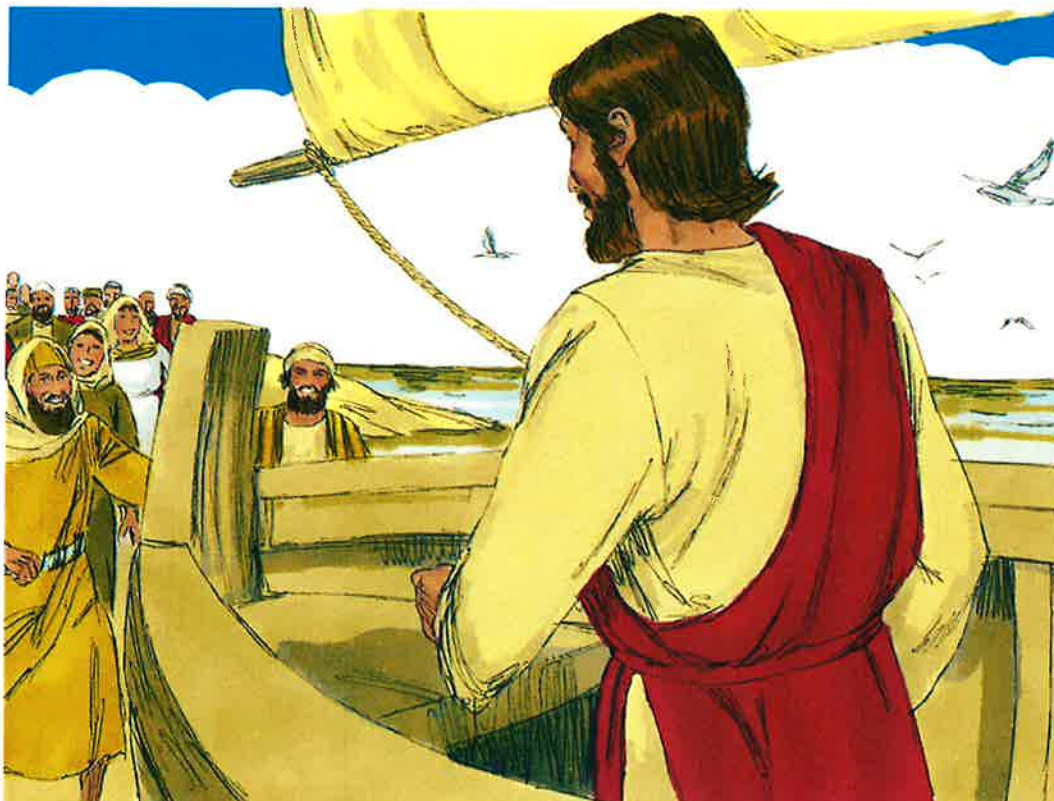
**Say:** *This is great news, isn't it? Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, is Jesus still powerfully working in the lives of His people? [Yes.] Does He still have love and compassion for His people? [Yes.] Is He still changing people's hearts? [Yes.] That's great news!*

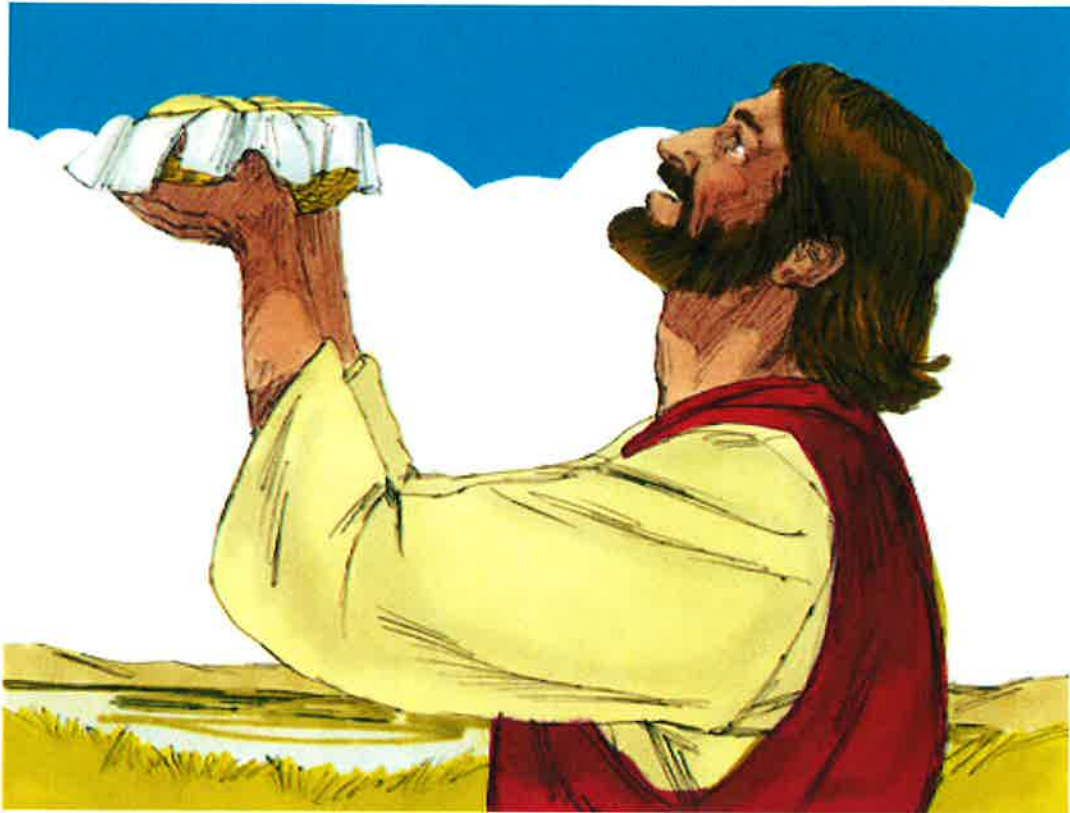
**Review the verse a couple of times.**

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

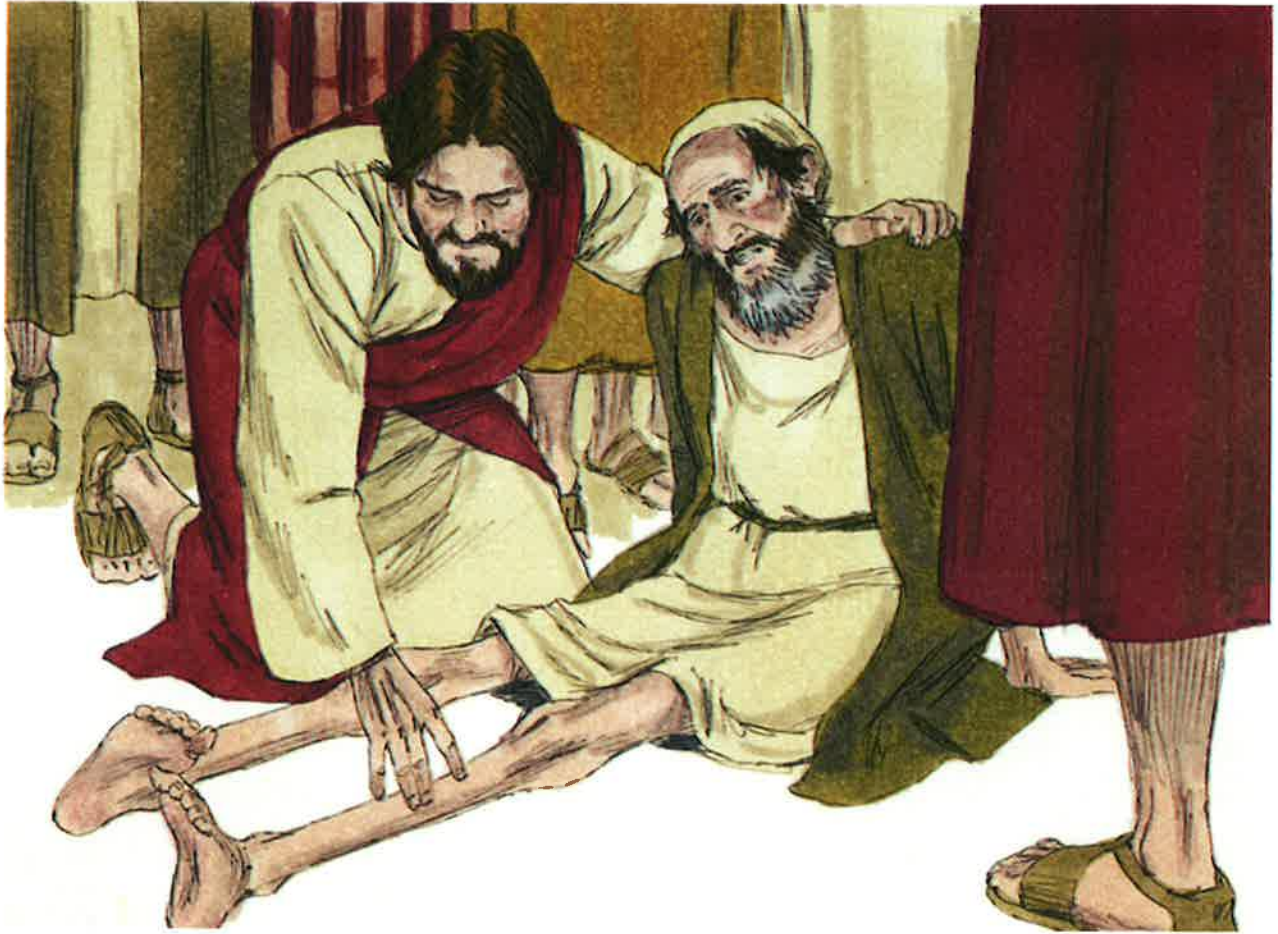
**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**











# Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

## Scripture Memory

### Hebrews 13:8

*Jesus Christ is  
the same  
yesterday and  
today and forever.*

## Lesson Review

### Mark 6

*Jesus is AMAZED at  
unbelief.  
The Twelve are sent out.  
John the Baptist is  
beheaded.  
Jesus feeds the five  
thousand.*

# Year Two

Investigating God's Word.  
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Five

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