

Unexpected Provision

September 6, 2020



Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet and centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are going to be opening up the book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we will gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciple.

This past weekend Emerson preached on Mark 6.

Scripture + Discussion

*The goal of your discussion this week is to learn how each of you experience Jesus as your shepherd. Specifically, it'll be important to draw out what areas you follow Jesus' shepherding presence, trusting him to provide and guide, and what areas you do not. Then, spend some time talking about **how** you each personally press into God's shepherding presence in your life.*

Take turns reading through all the way through **Mark 6**. Then, use the questions below to guide your discussion to hit on the above objectives.

Here are a few questions to guide this time:

- What do you think the Lord was teaching you through this sermon/passage?
- In this sermon, Emerson asked the question, "Who do we trust to lead and care and provide for us?" If you were to take a 30,000-foot view of your life and answer that question, what would your answer be? Explain.

- Emerson mentioned at the end of his sermon that he can give *lip-service* to the idea, “the Lord is my shepherd” but often he gives *life-service* to the idea he doesn’t actually live that out very well. What areas do you find it easy to trust Jesus to provide? What areas do you find it hard to trust Jesus? Why?
- **Read Mark 6:14-29.** What are the main differences between Herod’s kingship and kingdom and Jesus’ kingship and kingdom?
- What elements of Herod’s kingdom (toxicity, moral corruption, and leading to death) do you see in your own life? Where does Jesus’ kingdom still need to grow in your own heart?
- In what ways did this sermon/passage expand your view of the person of Jesus? In what areas were you challenged in your discipleship to him?
- How do you think you can foster God’s continual shepherding presence in your life?
- **Read Psalm 23; Psalm 16:7-8; John 15:1-11; Psalm 139:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.** How do these verses inform your answers to question seven? For more insight into practicing God’s shepherding presence see: <https://www.soulshpherd.org/the-examen-of-consciousness-to-practice-gods-presence/>

Accountability

Take some time again to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the questions below. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- What has your time in God’s word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse, children, or co-workers)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

End with prayer

Spend time praying **Psalm 23** together as a group.

Then, like each week, you might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.