



Study Guide Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct

## **Read Mark Ch 8 v 1-10**

1. Have you previously wondered if the feeding of the 4,000 and 5,000 were conflated together and not actually 2 separate miracles? What has helped you understand the difference between these 2 miracles?
2. The Disciples in Mark Ch 8 v 4, ask a similar question to the feeding of the 5,000. ("But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?")  
Does this encourage you in your walk with Jesus? (that even those disciples, who spent their lives in His presence and saw Him do miracles, still struggled to have faith in the middle of tough situations)  
Can you think of examples from your life where you have struggled to trust God to provide, even though He has provided before that?
3. Is there anyone who you are so devoted to, who you love so much, that if the option was to spend time in their company but not be able to eat for the duration, that you would still choose to do it?  
How does this compare to our desire to spend time with Jesus, when it costs us something we really value?

## **READ Mark Ch 4 v 1-20 Parable of the Sower**

4. Francis Chan, in his book Crazy Love, says 'Do not assume you are the good soil!'  
Like me, do you often presume too easily that you are the 'good soil' in this parable?
5. Colin talked about being all 4 options for the ground that received the seed at different parts of his life. He encouraged us not to presume we will permanently be the same ground throughout our lives. Can you recognise when you have been different types of ground to receive the seed?
6. Here is a list of the difficult questions that Francis Chan asks us in Ch 4 – Profile of a Lukewarm Christian (Choose a couple to wrestle with)

- Has your relationship with God actually changed the way you live?
- Do you see evidence of God's Kingdom in your life? Or are you choking it out by spending too much time, energy, money and thought on trying to be comfortable around the things of this world?
- Are you satisfied with being 'Godly enough' to get yourself to eternity with God?
- Where is your standard for comparing yourself?  
Is it people who don't know God?  
Is it those who also attend church here?

**Before you end your study time and pray together read this list of attributes** that can produce a Lukewarm Christian.

Remember that v 2 of Ch 8 quotes Jesus saying, 'I have compassion for these people' and that His instinct is to reach out to us with the love of the Prodigal Son's Father. So, read this list allowing the Holy Spirit to nudge you to action over one or 2 of these challenges...

Lukewarm People **attend church regularly**

Lukewarm People **give money to church** and charity as long as it doesn't impinge on their standard of living

Lukewarm People tend to **choose what is popular over what is right** when they are in conflict (desiring to fit in and out of church)

Lukewarm People **don't really want to be saved from their sin**, they want to be saved from the consequence of their sin

Lukewarm People are **moved by stories of others who do radical things** for Jesus, **but they don't act on it!**

Lukewarm People **rarely share their faith** with their neighbours, coworkers and friends

Lukewarm People **gauge their morality** or goodness **by comparing themselves to the secular world**

Lukewarm People say they **love Jesus, and they do, but only a bit. He isn't allowed to manage their lives**