thus and confidence in roungulation, so that we live at peace with our selfter out have followed these studies you will know that Mark i with You: AMEN miraculous ministry of Jesus merely for the sake of our informati

# Other Prayer Suggestions

Weekly Theme: The Bible and the Church

to change in order to focus upon this. In our reading today and Prav about how the Bible is used in your church, for worship, for preachangle for Maunt how people responded to Jesus, as teaching, for moral guidance etc. You may have concerns about any of these property furething to this, the Pharisees quest for a sign leaders, preachers, teachers and pastors in your church and their use of the Dishletin (8e) which is search for meani and in their ministry. Pray that the whole church might become more familiative the County self and in their ministry. Pray that the whole church might become more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come more familiative that the whole church might be come min

## Meditation

Where is the heart, the will to live, To act and do, to decide to follow truth, And pay the price for being called a Christian A the name the world despises?

Where is the stomach, the guts to feel, To know His love and be loved by God: To accept the price of death and resurrection And lose all to win a far more glorious crown?

Where is the wit, the mind and intellect To search the faith and not be sure of facts Unless they're tested through and through by life. For truth will not be found in books but in the spirit?

Now, He will come, and when He comes, He'll know what you have done with what you have. He'll know your heart, and mind and feelings. Will He find faith and hope and love within all three?

# Bible Study - Mark 8:11-21

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, putting Hirberatedehteestsbiples extensively (8:17-21) for their failure. asking Him for a sign from heaven. 12 He sighed deeply from within it him spirit, and ever, that Jesus had to shock the disciples by the said, Why does this generation ask me for a sign? Amen, I tell youpuncarsigeecfrombeeading only a few verses further on in Mark's given this generation.' 13 Then He left them again, got back into the season those critical moments in the ministry of Jesu across to the other side.

14 Now, the disciples had forgotten to bring bread, and they only had one with the true nature of His call upon our lives. them in the boat. 15 'Be careful,' Jesus warned them, 'watch out for the yeast of the

logic of Jesus' ministry. After a certain period of time performing Jesus began to seek out people's response to His ministry. He towards the final show-down in Jerusalem, but how many people

doing through Him?

these things for the sake of publicity or personal acclamation.

meaning, and Mark's reporting of what happened, roughly half way

When the Pharisees asked for a sign, they rejected what they ha Jesus' ministry as inadequate proof that God was doing anything wanted clear and unequivocal confirmation from God that Jesus came to demand it immediately. Mark reports that Jesus was up (which is the general meaning of the beginning of verses 12 in the refused to give any meaningful reply. When we examine later wh Pharisees, we will discover that He did not even finish His sentence was His rebuff to those who sought to test Him rather than take the the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah. He left them (8:13) with their question.

The situation which developed with the disciples is plainly sad, and upset by their ignorance, coming so soon after the Pharisees' demind was on His ultimate destiny as we can see from His comme the Pharisees and Herod'; for the Pharisees had already begun to Herod had been responsible for the death of John the Baptist (6:14 see further than the details of the great events they had seer connection between such wonderful works and the suffering or d

Jesus as 'the Messiah'. Sometimes we need the Lord to speak str

### **Going Deeper**

Pharisees and of Herod.' 16 They discussed with each other whethere it will an object to the each of these incidents in turn, and they continue the each of the ea they had no bread; 17 but Jesus was aware of this and said to the prowerful store word the literature of the prower full store that the prower full store is the prower full store that the provided in the pr talking about having no bread? Do you not yet understand or completes which largely report what He had to say, we see s

about in works typical of the day (we get a glimpse of this in the apocryphale/adenteen/staledaectrassklets full of leftovers from the miracles of the f books of Jewish literature written just before the time of Christ, such as 2 ntds draws, outsofathern the spiritual significance of what had happe Jesus was concerned. He had already demonstrated in His life and ministry which the wire row was feel where sof He simply asked them how many baskets full God prophesied about the Messiah (e.g. Isaiah 35:5,6, 61:1,2 etc). The ambidation of the control probably thought they had caught Jesus out. They were indeed trying to find the way not have disciples gave no answer, and we can ass worked out that Jesus either could not, or would not respond to such a challenderstand the investigation would not respond to such a challenderstand the investigation of the supplying the needs of the supplying the supplying the supplyin they would win. They were right; Jesus would not do their bidding, and thethen awiseless analy twellseven, see previous studies on 6:30-44 and have hoped that His authority in the eyes of the people would therefore be compressible using concern was to good the disciples into some degree Jesus' response to all this was remarkable; the Greek expression for 'He sighed deeply' uses **Application** words which express emotional pain and anger (see also John 11:33). Jesus then disched first of these incidents that there are times wh specific and derogatory expression which would have been recognised in a figure of the pharisees as 'this generation' (8:12). The first pharity of the pharisees as 'this generation' (8:12). The first pharity of the pharisees as 'this generation' (8:12). the Old Testament as a way of talking about people when they were at the light semantic or philosophical puzzle. It may be the story of Noah, God distinguished between the righteous Noah and harman we have the gift to address this type of argument, a rebellious people of 'this generation' who would die in the flood (7:1); and specific the conject. At other times, people will ask us sincerely a needing protection from 'this generation' forever (Psalm 12:7), a We stand back at this point, stuck in the material world and unable to c disparagingly of the people of Israel in the wilderness as 'that generation' (Fig. World around us (as were the disciples). It may be that we need Then with the force of His characteristic and emphatic words 'Amen, I telle are have abeen that we must a denied the Pharisees their sign. Other Gospel writers make more of this impulse the pharisees their sign. Other Gospel writers make more of this impulse the pharise of our actions and those of others, for example Jesus as commenting about the 'sign of the prophet Jonah' (e.g. see Matt 12 20st) part Mark passage there is another point of interest for t reports Jesus as not even finishing His sentence! A literal reading of what the Greek of Mark to bear in mind what the Bible describes 8:12 says, is this; 'if a sign were to be given to this generation ...'! This reading of what the Bible describes 8:12 says, is this; 'if a sign were to be given to this generation ...'! This reading a literal reading of what the Bible describes 8:12 says, is this; 'if a sign were to be given to this generation ...'! This reading a literal reading of what the Bible describes 8:12 says, is this; 'if a sign were to be given to this generation ...'! was up and off and getting in to the boat (8:13) at that very moment! However all this was said of healing and deliverance, and all manner in the form of a statement which implies a strong negative, hence the translations sample to Jesus Christ. They are performed sometiments and the statement which implies a strong negative, hence the translations sample to Jesus Christ. most Bibles 'no sign will be given this generation'. Our glance at the original texto however hecessarily have anything to do with the Lord. shows us very clearly the disdain Jesus had for the Pharisees question. receive these miracles give testimony that it is Jesus Christ who h

#### The disciples fail to understand

The whole story about the disciples' misunderstanding arose from a trivial matter. They had forgotten to bring bread, and we can easily understand why, when Jesus had up at the first file ruse in groups)

company of the Pharisees in something of a hurry (8:13)! Jesus then made a1com Wheat signist do people seek today in order to believe in G came from His own concerns about what had happened; He knew that the 2nfluences theyour group what you would have felt like i Pharisees was working secretly to spread doubt and unbelief amongst the people, and integrating this incident.

then they become signs which speak wonderfully of the grace of Go

this had been the purpose of their latest challenge (8:11-13). Jesus knew that the end result of their plotting would be His death, just as the envy and corruption of Herod had resulted in the death of John the Baptist. He therefore said 'Be careful ... watch out **Discipleship**:

Pharisees and of Herod.'(8:15). The disciples were thinking about bread, but lesus was a longer and about the future of His ministry and the Gospel.

Try the following exercise either today or over a period of a wee

concerned about the future of His ministry and the Gospel.

It is a little hard for us to read the following verses (8:17-20) because it appears to the first week a list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week a list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week a list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears to the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears the first week as list or keep a diary of the things that happears the first week as list or keep as list