



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022



Take your Pulse

Tell about a time you struggled to understand something.

What do you struggle to understand when it comes to your faith?

Today's Reading

Mark Chapter 8

By now you might be starting to get the impression that Jesus is hanging out with bumbling idiots. His disciples do seem to be a little daft. After all the miracles, healings, exorcisms, and teachings they have experienced with Jesus, they continue to be astounded that Jesus fed once again a large crowd, this time with only seven loaves. They still don't realize who Jesus is. Did you laugh when the disciples got back in the boat and realized they didn't have enough bread for the journey and were worried about how they were going to survive, even though Jesus was with them! No wonder Jesus got so frustrated with them. Jesus then speaks very clearly about who he is and what he came to do and what it means to follow him. Still the disciples don't fully understand and continue to struggle with the way of the cross.



Start the Thinking

As followers of Christ, taking up a cross is not simply about putting up with bad things. It is about serving others, perhaps even dying for others, because Christ died for us. What does following Jesus and taking up a cross mean in your life?



Conversing with God

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes we fail to see the answer even when it is right in front of us. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear your Word. Guide us as we deny ourselves so that we may take up our cross and follow you. Amen.



Be blessed

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

May the God of life who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen