

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What is peer pressure? Do you experience it now? How? What makes peer pressure so powerful? Why do you think many people fear being rejected? When have you felt most rejected in your life?

Going Deeper

3. Please read Mark 6:1-6. What do you notice about the way Jesus' long-time friends, relatives and neighbors react to Him when He comes to Nazareth? Why do you think they react this way? Have you ever experienced anything like Jesus experienced? What do you notice about the way Jesus reacts to their rejection? Why doesn't He take it personally? What do you learn from Him about not taking rejection personally?
4. Please read Mark 6:7-13. How do we know that Jesus expected His disciples to be rejected? How did Jesus know this? How does He prepare His disciples for rejection? (See also John 15:20) Why do we need to expect rejection in order to handle it?
5. Please read Mark 6:12 with Matt. 10:15. Why is having a long-term view of the consequences of rejection helpful in handling rejection now? What was Jesus' perspective on the long-term consequences of people's rejection of Him? (Mark 12:20, Philip 2:5-11, Hebrews 12:1) What should be our perspective on the long-term consequences when we are rejected? (Matt. 5:12, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Hebrews 13:12-14) How would this change the way we see people's rejection of us because of Christ?
6. Why is embracing the fact that we will be rejected by some because of Jesus essential to fulfilling His mission for us in the world? What keeps you from embracing rejection for Christ's sake?

Application

What is one lesson you've learned from this passage which you will apply this week? How will you apply it?