



- b. What does Jesus want them to be talking about? What does he want them to understand?
 - c. What does Jesus want you to understand about the sustenance that he provides? With that knowledge, what would he rather you spend time talking about and doing?
3. Jesus asks the disciples, “Are your hearts hardened?”
- a. What is a “hardened heart”?
 - b. Do you think that the disciples’ hearts were hardened?
 - c. Have you ever known a person with a hardened heart?
 - d. Has your heart ever been hardened?
4. Is there a connection between the “hardened heart” and the leaven of the Pharisees and the Herodians?
5. What kind of leaven might harden the heart in our times now?



*Touching heaven, changing earth
with head, heart and hands*

Sunday, January 22, 2017
Mark 8:14-21

We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself, or discuss them with friends. Many small groups use them for discussion; if you would like to participate in a group, visit www.laumc.org/grouplife.

1. The disciples have experienced Jesus feeding 5,000-plus people with five loaves of bread and two fish. They have experienced Jesus feeding 4,000-plus people with seven loaves and a few fish.
 - a. Why do you think they are worried about feeding themselves with only one loaf of bread?
 - b. Why do we worry when our own resources or the resources of the church or other helping organizations run lower than we’d like—when our cupboards or food pantries have not much more than one loaf of bread?
2. Jesus says, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand?”
 - a. Why does Jesus become distressed with the disciples when they are discussing the one loaf of bread?