

Feeding the 5,000

Key Scriptures: Mark 6:30-46 Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. ³¹ And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

³² So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves. ³³ But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. ³⁴ And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. ³⁶ "Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." ³⁷ But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

³⁸ But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. ⁴¹ And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. ⁴² So they all ate and were filled.

⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men. ⁴⁵ Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. ⁴⁶ And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.

Key Point: What God needs from you is your availability. He will take care of the rest.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What seems to be the busiest season in your life? Why?

Steps of faith: Reflect on your recent walk with Christ.

- Share with the group a step of faith you recently took, or someone else's step of faith that has been encouraging or inspiring to you.

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- Why do you think Jesus emphasized the need for solitude and rest? When was the last time you incorporated moments of rest and solitude in your spiritual journey? How can we prioritize this in our own busy lives?
- What differences are there between Jesus' approach to the crowd and that of his disciples (vv. 30–44)?
- Jesus was moved with compassion for the crowd, even when He and His disciples needed rest. How can we cultivate a heart of compassion for others, especially when we feel drained?
- What are the things that encourage you to serve others? What influences you to not serve others? How do personal needs, desires, and fatigue influence this?
- Have you ever experienced a time when you were inadequate for the task God laid before you, yet you watched God make your meager resources adequate? Explain.
- In John 6:15, the crowd wanted to make Jesus their king for personal gain. How can we avoid treating God as a "vending machine" and instead focus on cultivating a deeper relationship with Him?

Start doing: There are two things emphasized in this week's passage: Solitude and service. How will you incorporate both this week?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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