

04

MARK 6:30-44

JESUS IS ENOUGH

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Our world can be a competitive place, and the urge to take what we think we deserve before someone else takes it from us is strong. This mindset tends to come from fear that we'll miss out, and it can lead to unhealthy competition, selfishness, and skepticism—all of which are barriers to the cooperation, generosity, and selfless service that God wants and expects from His children. When we finally realize that God really does know what we need and is ready and willing to meet those needs, letting go of our fear gets easier. Today, we'll watch Jesus's twelve disciples learn a valuable lesson about God's provision. God may stretch us, but He will always give us what we need when we obey.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus sees and provides for our needs.



EXPLORE

scripture

MARK 6:30-44

MARK 6:30-31

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. **31** He said to them, “Come away by

yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.” For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

MARK 6:32-37

32 So they went away in the boat by themselves to a remote place, **33** but many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they ran on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. **34** When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things. **35** When it

grew late, his disciples approached him and said, “This place is deserted, and it is already late. **36** Send them away so that they can go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy themselves something to eat.” **37** “You give them something to eat,” he responded. They said to him, “Should we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?”

MARK 6:38-44

38 He asked them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” When they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.” **39** Then he instructed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. **41** He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven,

he blessed and broke the loaves. He kept giving them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **42** Everyone ate and was satisfied. **43** They picked up twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish. **44** Now those who had eaten the loaves were five thousand men.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MARK 6:42

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MARK 6:30-31

DWELL

Deep down, we all want to be seen and loved. We want people to want to be with us, to listen to us, to think about how we might be feeling, and to respond in a way that proves they aren't just doing things out of a sense of obligation. Jesus was that person to His twelve disciples, and He will be that for us if we let Him. He deserves the same from us in response.



What could these passages say to someone who believes that God is cold and removed from our daily life?



How should this passage influence the way you respond to people as a representative of Jesus here on earth?

MEMORIZE

Write Mark 6:42 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

PRAY

Thank God for sending Jesus to be your Savior as well as your friend. Ask Him to show you how to be a better friend to people.

day 2

MARK 6:32-34

DWELL

In today's culture, people feel like it's okay to get angry at others for doing things they don't like, but Jesus's followers are called to act differently. Like He did, we should look at people the way God does. Every person is a soul in need of rescue, a person struggling to overcome sin. When they do something inconsiderate, we shouldn't be surprised. They're just like us! Instead of taking offense, we should welcome opportunities to show people the same mercy and grace God has shown us so they can put their faith in Jesus, too.

↔ Jesus was prepared to meet the spiritual needs of the crowd. What steps do you need to take to be just as prepared?

↓ Sheep rely on their shepherd for protection and provision. What does the fact that Jesus calls us His "sheep" say about us?

MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 6:42 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

PRAY

Thank God for knowing you better than you know yourself and for being ready and willing to give you what you need when you come to Him.

day 3

MARK 6:35-36

DWELL

Jesus's disciples were used to Jesus changing the plan, making time for people, and providing for people's needs. But this time when it got late, they were ready for the extra people to leave. Notice that they didn't offer to go get their own food. They assumed Jesus would provide for His chosen twelve, but they didn't think twice about sending others away hungry. We have to guard against the tendency to think of Jesus as ours or to hoard His provision for ourselves. Everything is God's—including us!—and He spares nothing for the sake of His glory.

↓ Why is it sometimes difficult for us to avoid the temptation to satisfy our own needs and overlook others?

→ What would you have done in the disciples' place? What should we do in similar circumstances?

MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 6:42 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

PRAY

Thank God for not being like us. Ask Him to give you a spirit of generosity and patience so you won't get in the way of what He's doing.

day 4

MARK 6:37-44

DWELL

We don't read about a response from the disciples here after Jesus started giving instructions. They just did what they were told. However, there was probably plenty going on in their minds as it became clear that Jesus was doing the impossible right before their eyes. Their silence is to their credit. When God is moving, the smartest thing we can do is pay attention and play the role He has given us to the best of our ability.

← What did Jesus take into account when surveying this situation that the disciples missed or forgot?

↑ What does this story tell us about what God wants and what He can do?

MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 6:42 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

PRAY

Thank God for giving us opportunities to serve Him. Ask Him to remind you of who He is when the task He has assigned you seems impossible.

day 5

MARK 6:14-15

DWELL

↻ Why did Jesus leave when he realized that the crowd wanted to make Him king by force? What did He know that they didn't?

→ What can you do to make sure you don't misunderstand what God is trying to tell you?

Jesus went to great lengths to show the people that He was God's Son and that the God who loved them could provide for their needs in miraculous ways. They missed it. Their ancestors had asked for a prophet to lead them, and God had promised them a Messiah instead (see Deut. 18:15). He had made good on His promise, but they misunderstood. They wanted what they wanted and they planned to make it happen. Fortunately, Jesus wouldn't let them. God's promises and plans are always best.

MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 6:42 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

PRAY

Thank God for being patient with us when we don't understand and for dealing gently with us when we get it wrong.