

## Mark 6:30-44 – Feeding The Five Thousand

### Leader's Guide

April 7, 2019

#### 1. Read Mark 6:30-44 to familiarize yourself with the passage. What did we learn about the way God loves to do his greatest works?

##### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

<sup>30</sup> The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. <sup>36</sup> Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But he answered 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 it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. <sup>41</sup> And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup> And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

**2. What do these verses teach us about the way God does his work through other people? Philippians 4:18-19; 2 Corinthians 7:6; 1 Corinthians 16:17-18; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Romans 10:14-17**

*I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:18-19 (ESV)*

- God supplied Paul's needs but he did it through the generosity of the Philippians.

*But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 2 Corinthians 7:6 (ESV)*

- God provided comfort for Paul by sending Titus to bring him comfort.

*I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people. 1 Corinthians 16:17-18 (ESV)*

- God provided encouragement for Paul at a discouraging time. He did that through the three people mentioned in this verse. God encourages us at difficult times by using friends and other people in the church.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (ESV)*

- God comforts us in difficult times so we can bring God's comfort to others when they are in difficult times.

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:14-17 (ESV)*

- God has chosen to use us to spread the good news of the gospel. He could have spread the good news another way and changed lives another way but he chose to use us to do that good work.

**3. God loves to do his best work through people that look insignificant. John 6:8-9 tells us the feeding of the five thousand began with the gift of a little boy's lunch that Jesus multiplied. In similar fashion, God refused to deliver his people with a strong army but insisted on whittling down Gideon's army to make it smaller. Read Judges 7. In what ways are the little boy's lunch and Gideon's army similar? What principle is God teaching us about the way he works?**

- Just as Jesus delighted in taking a little boy's lunch and multiplying it to feed a vast multitude, God whittled down Gideon's army so it would be obvious that God was the source of the victory.
- This reminds us that God loves to work through inadequate situations and inadequate people so his power shows up more mightily.