

Small Group Discussion Guide

Mark 6:30-44

“Full With Leftovers”

Based on Sunday’s
Sermon 1/18/2026

Background

After an extensive ministry tour, the apostles were undoubtedly fatigued from their travels, which included persecution and rejection (see Matt. 10:16–23). Adding to their weariness was the news from the disciples of John the Baptist that John, the greatest of all prophets, had recently been executed (cf. Matt. 14:12). When the Lord heard about John’s death (cf. Matt. 14:13), and in order to give His disciples a much-needed respite, He instructed them to get into a boat and set sail across the Sea of Galilee. The effort required by the ministry was so intense that they could not even find a few moments for a meal (cf. Mark 3:20).¹ In the midst of their fatigue, Jesus taught a valuable lesson on depending upon God that they would never forget.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Share a time when you were sure something wasn’t enough — but it turned out to be plenty.

Observation

2. Read Mark 6:30-44. What details in these verses show both the disciples’ exhaustion and Jesus’ response to it?
3. What problem do the disciples see, and what does Jesus ask them to do in response?
4. What actions do Jesus and the crowd take in these verses, and what details stand out about how the meal happens?

¹ John MacArthur, *Mark 1–8*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2015), 314.

Interpretation

5. What does Jesus' compassion ("like sheep without a shepherd") tell us about His heart for people?
6. How does this miracle reveal Jesus' identity?
7. Read John 1:14-18. What do you think verse 16 is referring to when it says, "grace upon grace?" How does this passage connect with Mark 6:30-44?

Application

8. What situations make you respond like the disciples — focusing on what you *don't* have?

9. How does this passage challenge your view of God's provision and generosity?

10. What is the challenge to us concerning our love for those who are lost and need a Savior?