

INTRO

- What is your favourite kind of food and why?
- Have you ever witnessed a miracle? Explain.

READ

Mark 6:30-44

REFLECT

In this miraculous story, we see the CARE, CRISIS and CONTENTMENT Jesus brings.

The CARE Jesus brings (v30-34)

Jesus cares for us. He saw his disciples were tired and hadn't eaten, so he withdrew with them to rest and get refreshed.

Qu: Jesus cares for you and the details of your life. Do you struggle to think of him in this way? why/why not?

Qu: Read v34. Why was Jesus moved with compassion when he saw the crowds? What do you think "like sheep without a shepherd" means?

"like sheep without a shepherd" was a common OT phrase used to describe the state of God's people and an indictment against Israel's leaders. God promised that one day He would become the true Shepherd to his people (Ps 23, Ez 34:15-16). Jesus is stepping into that role, but even his disciples don't fully understand who Jesus is yet or what it all means (see v52).

Qu: what can we learn from Jesus in the way he responds to the needs of his disciples and the crowd?

The CRISIS Jesus brings (v35-39)

Jesus cares for us enough to throw us into difficult situations.

Qu: why do you think Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowds, something he knew they

couldn't do? How could they have responded differently?

Impossible and difficult situations are opportunities to trust God and grow spiritually. What I have placed in Jesus hands will always surpass what I have kept in my hands, The issue isn't what we have or don't have, but *who* has it.

Qu: Being competent and having resources are good things. But how can they sometimes get in the way of doing ministry and following Jesus?

The CONTENTMENT Jesus brings

"And they all ate and were satisfied." Imagine the scene. Around 20,000 people have been fed from just 5 loaves+2 fish. Amazing! Think of the conversations people had that evening. Yet, the next day, they are looking for Jesus again, and his tone begins to shift (if you read John's version). Ultimately, Jesus tells them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger" (Jn 6:35).

Qu: what do you think the bigger purpose behind this incredible miracle of provision was? How does Jesus want us to respond to him?

RESPOND

- What encouraged and challenged you the most out of today's discussion?
- How can you practically apply what you're learning to your personal life?

PRAY

- Bring your cares to God and one another through prayer.
- Anyone facing a difficult/impossible situation? Pray for God's miraculous intervention.
- Pray for those you are reaching out to that they would know the contentment Jesus brings.