



Jesus Feeds 5,000+ (Matthew 14:13-21)

Small Group Questions

Week of July 13, 2025

Icebreaker: Where do you go to get away from it all? Is there a season in life where you feel overwhelmed or burned out? How do you recover?

Optional Opening Activity: Compare the narrative of Jesus Feeding the 5,000 in all four gospels.

Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15; Matthew 14:13-21

Discussion Questions:

1. Read **Matthew 14:1-21** aloud together.

John the Baptist cleared the path for Jesus by warning people of the coming kingdom and preparing them for the coming king. He made it clear that Herod could not be the true king of the Jews; his moral life was such a mess that the idea was unthinkable.

Herod and Jesus, the two kings, both serve banquets. What does each king's banquet reveal about his character and authority?

2. When Jesus learned of John's death he slipped away to be quiet and alone, but the crowds discovered him and flocked around him. Under the circumstances, what is remarkable about Jesus' reaction to the crowd?

3. The disciples observe Jesus' compassion and come to him with a suggestion which seems best for the crowds and for him (and for themselves). Who are the people or the specific needs of people that you wish you could just "send away"?

Why do you think Jesus counters with "You give them something to eat"?

4. In the face of the crowd's hunger, the disciples said, "All we have here is five loaves of bread and two fish." Think of a problem or need that stirs your compassion but that appears too huge for you to do anything about. How would you complete this statement: "All I have here is..."?

5. What are your unique talents, spiritual gifts, resources, or passions that Jesus could use to meet the needs of others?

When have you seen others use theirs to serve others?

Small Group Challenge: Consider some practical ways that you can keep your trust in Christ and not get caught up in your inadequacies and limitations. Which idea(s) will you put into effect this week?

Pray: Take time to pray together about others' needs which appear overwhelming. Bring what you have to Jesus, no matter how inadequate it looks, and allow him to use it as he wishes.