

*Study Group Notes*

**WELCOME:**

Have you been really tired after a challenging time, looked forward to a well-earned rest, but found that you are needed to help out in some way instead?

How did you feel?

**WORSHIP:**

Read Psalm 72.

Give thanks to God for his abundant blessings and pray for his righteous rule in our country and across the world.

**WORD:**

By way of introduction, read Mark 6:6b-13 and Mark 6:22-29 which events immediately precede the feeding of the 5000.

1. How do you imagine the disciples are feeling after their mission?  
Can you imagine any competition going on among them as they swap stories?
2. How do you think Jesus is feeling?  
Why do you think he might be wanting to take the disciples away somewhere quiet?
3. Read Mark 6:30-33.  
How did the crowds follow Jesus to this place?  
Why do you think they did so?

Read Luke 9:10-17

4. How did Jesus treat the crowd when he saw that they had followed him? How would we have reacted?
5. Who suggested to Jesus that the crowd be dismissed at the end of the day and why (v. 12 and see also John 6.5-9)?

6. What is Jesus's response to the disciples (v. 13)?  
Whose responsibility does Jesus say it was? Read also John 6:7.  
Is it a practical solution (200 denarii was about half a year's pay)?
7. Given that buying food was well beyond the disciples' resources, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do (read Mark 6:37-39)?
8. What resources do they find (v.13 and Mark 6:38) and what do they do with them (v.16)?
9. What did Jesus tell the disciple to do next (v.14)?  
What practical reasons would there be for this?
10. What follows was likely to be a continuous process of breaking, filling baskets and distributing to perhaps 20,000 or more people (including women and children). How many baskets of food would be needed do you think and how long might it have taken?
11. Think of two alternative ways that the needs of the crowd could have been met by Jesus alone: 1) a way suggested by the disciples, and 2) an even more spectacular miracle.  
Why then did Jesus require his disciples to do their part?  
Once they gave to Jesus the limited resources they had, what happened to those resources? Was it just enough for the people?

**APPLICATION:**

12. Think of the vast needs of the 5700 or so households in Middlewich (not so different to the number of people in the Gospel passage). List the needs.
13. Then discuss, and think especially about No. 28:
  - a. How many loaves do you have? Go and see!
  - b. What skills do you have? Go and see!
  - c. What time do you have? Go and see!
  - d. What seems impossible? Give what you have to God and see his divine resources making all possible!

**PRAYERS**

- **Pray that we may give to God what little we have.**
- **Pray that God will multiply our offerings hundreds of times.**
- **Pray for the work in No. 28**
- **Pray for the sick, frail and bereaved on our notice sheet and those others known to us.**