

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday February 8, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 6:30–44**, Jesus is not scolding tired disciples for needing rest, and He’s not asking them to manufacture a miracle on their own. He is inviting them into a deeper kind of discipleship—where they learn dependence in the wilderness and discover what He can do through surrendered hands. Many of us feel the tension of being stretched thin: needs are real, resources feel limited, and we’re not sure what we can actually offer. This conversation is about letting Jesus reshape how we see, what we bring, and how we trust. As we discuss, ask God to move us from “Look what I did” to “Jesus, do Your work through me.”

Main Passage:

Mark 6:30–44

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson in the Wilderness!

READ ALOUD

Mark 6:30–44

DISCUSS

Opening Question: Where do you feel most “running on empty” right now—time, energy, money, peace, patience, hope, or something else?

- Jesus leads them to a “remote place” (wilderness), but the crowd meets them there. What might Jesus be forming in the disciples by letting the “retreat” get interrupted?
- In Mark 6:34, Jesus feels compassion because the people are “like sheep without a shepherd.” What do you think it looks like to see people and problems through Jesus’ eyes instead of through frustration or fatigue?
- When the disciples say, “Send them away... so they can get something to eat”, what are they focused on, and what might that reveal about how scarcity shapes our decisions?
- Jesus’ response is direct: “You give them something to eat”. Why do you think Jesus puts the responsibility in their hands first? What does that teach us about ministry and dependence?
- Jesus asks, “How many loaves do you have?”. Why does He start with what’s available instead of what’s lacking? What “five loaves and two fish” might God be asking you to bring right now?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

DISCUSS & APPLY

- What is one situation in your life right now where you need to pause and ask, “How would Jesus see this?” What might change if you viewed it through compassion instead of pressure?
- Where are you most tempted to say, “I don’t have enough”, and what would it look like to offer that area to Jesus anyway?
- Where might God be calling you to pass on what He’s given you, encouragement, prayer, time, generosity, a conversation, a simple act of service?
- What’s the difference between chasing an outcome and being faithful with obedience? Where do you need to release control this week?

RESPOND

- **See with compassion:** Who are you struggling to see through Jesus’ eyes right now?
- **Bring what you have:** What is a small “loaf” you can put in Jesus’ hands this week? What will you do to offer it to Him?
- **Trust the outcome:** Where are you trying to force results? What is one step of obedience you’ll take?

PRAY

Take a quiet moment and name your “wilderness” to God—where you feel stretched, uncertain, or lacking. Ask Jesus to open your eyes to see people and needs with compassion, to help you surrender what you do have (even if it feels small), and to give you faith to trust Him with outcomes you can’t control. End by asking the Shepherd King to provide what your group needs this week—and to make you faithful distributors of what He provides.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 6:30–44

- What problem did the disciples notice in this story, and what did Jesus want them to do about it?
- What did the boy have, and what did Jesus do with it?
- What does it teach us about Jesus that everyone ate and there were leftovers?
- If you were in the crowd that day, what would you want to ask Jesus after the meal?

For younger children: Help your child name one small thing they can give to Jesus this week (kindness, sharing, prayer)—and remind them that obeying Jesus can start small.

For older kids or students: Talk about a “booth/net” that can keep them stuck (habits, sports pressure, screens, fear of friends, image, anxiety). What’s one thing they can surrender to Jesus and one way they can “pass on” what He gives?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- Day 1: Mark 7:1–13
- Day 2: Mark 7:14–23
- Day 3: Mark 7:24–30
- Day 4: Mark 7:31–37
- Day 5: Mark 7:1–37

COMMENTARY

What's Going On?

Jesus welcomes His disciples back from ministry and invites them to rest, but the “wilderness” becomes the classroom. The crowd’s need exposes the disciples’ limits, and Jesus uses a real-life shortage to form their faith.

The miracle is not just provision for the people; it’s discipleship training—teaching them that Jesus is the Shepherd who sees, feeds, and leads, and that His work flows through surrendered servants.

A Bit of Background

The language “sheep without a shepherd” echoes the Old Testament picture of God’s people needing faithful leadership—highlighting Jesus as the true Shepherd-King who cares for and provides for His flock. The wilderness setting also carries a deep biblical memory: it’s where God tested and provided for His people.

Even the crowd sitting in organized groups and the abundance of leftovers reinforce the message that Jesus isn’t merely meeting a momentary need—He’s revealing God’s care, order, and overflowing provision through His presence and power.