

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Understanding Jesus

**Lesson 2:** Stewarding Understanding

**Lesson 3:** Exponential Growth

**Lesson 4:** A New Side of Jesus

**Lesson 5:** Demons, Pigs & Gentiles

**Lesson 6:** Resurrection

**Lesson 7:** Desperate Faith

**Lesson 8:** Hometown Blues

**Lesson 9:** Trial Run

**Lesson 10:** Worldly Power

## **A Feeding Miracle**

**Mark 6:30-44**

*Following Jesus and ministering to others in His name is hard work requiring a regular cycle of \_\_\_\_\_ and replenishment. As signaled to us by God's sabbath, \_\_\_\_\_ is an integral part of the rhythm of Christian ministry.*

**Discussion 1.** If God intended us to schedule regular periods of rest, why do some of us struggle with feelings of guilt when we are not working or otherwise producing? How do you overcome those feelings of guilt?

*Jesus cared about physical needs; but his gaze seems to have always been much deeper than physical hunger and broken bodies. His first and foremost concern was always the \_\_\_\_\_ brokenness of the people.*

**Discussion 2.** Why do you think we so often care only about meeting physical needs and not spiritual needs? Why do we find it easier to feed hungry people than to tell them about Jesus? What do you think it would take to change that?

*Jesus' miracles were almost always for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ and for teaching the disciples. So, Jesus rarely left the circumstances open for interpretation in a way God's involvement could be questioned. The purpose was to make God's involvement clear.*

**Discussion 3.** If God's purpose behind miracles is to make Himself known, i.e., to make His involvement clear, does that change or affect how you view "miracles" in the world today? If so, how?

*There is a certain extravagance with which God moves in this world and in the ways He meets our physical, emotional and spiritual needs. He is a God of \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 4.** God provides abundantly. So, what is the difference between being abundant (or extravagant) and being wasteful? Was Jesus' miracle producing 12 baskets of leftover bread and fish wasteful? Why or why not?