Mark 6:30-56

30The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

32So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

* Father, thank you for giving Jesus the nature of wanting to get away from the crowd to commune with You. To rest and restore his connection with You. To gain nourishment so that He could continue his ministry. And thank you that he wanted the same for his disciples. To give them a time to renew their strength so that they could continue their journey. Help us to strive for that same connection.
* Lord, remind me that I need to rest in You and that it isn’t necessary to be “on” all the time. I know that I need to take care of myself so that I can help take care of others. Help me to remember to put on my own oxygen mask first.
* Lord, I also thank you for those around me that remind me to rest. Those that see when I am worn out and need that time to rejuvenate my being. Help me do the same for them. Right now, help me show that to …

35By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. 36Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” 37But he answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+Mark+6%3A30-56&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24445a)]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

38“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

* Father, like them, there are many times when we don’t even know what we have on hand to share. We forget that we have resources beyond our knowledge. We only need to look around and see what is there. It might not be my wisdom or abilities, but it might be a talent or specialty of a brother or sister who is looking for a way to share that has alluded them.
* Help us, Lord, to mentor to others that haven’t had the experience to recognize what they have to offer. Help me to show the inexperienced that we don’t have to have all the answers to all the questions, but we can look together to be able to help.

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

39Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42They all ate and were satisfied, 43and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

* Father, I am always amazed at the way that You can take the small, insignificant gift and make it more than enough. You took a small boy’s lunch and fed so many people. If it was at least five thousand men, it could have easily been double that amount of women and children.
* Lord, I know that You can take our small offerings and do magnificent things with it. Help us to remember we only have to turn them over to you. Our gifts and talents may not seem like much, but that shy young boy or that scared little girl could be tomorrow’s great leaders.
* Thank You for sending Jesus to show us how it can be done, even tired and hungry. It is in his name we pray.

Amen