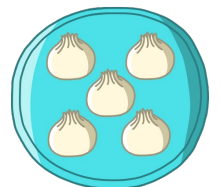




HAVE YOU *Eaten Yet?*

SMALL GROUP SERIES | MARK 6

FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS



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 InterVarsity
ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES

HAVE YOU EATEN YET? | MARK 6

Read the story individually or aloud. Then discuss the warm-up question.

A Korean adoptee, Danielle, discovers and retells the stories of her native and adoptive cultures, sharing the lessons of hospitality she has also found in the food of each.

“We have a communal responsibility to feed one another. The word that blends sikgu (mouth to be fed) and bapsang gongdonche (a community that eats rice together) is hospitality. The practice of hospitality in bapsang gongdonche is not about “I” or “we”, but all people as a collective community. The practice of hospitality explains why there is always enough to eat. It recognizes the need for each individual story of survival. It recognizes that food is something to be shared. Living and eating together is a way of sharing our life resources with others.

I have been reminded that food has true power, which has made me start to care where my food comes from, what it means to the people that I am feeding, and what it means when someone else feeds me. Food is about all people. Food is what we all have in common. And food brings us together to sit at one table and converse with one another, listen to one another, and understand one another. Food reminds us that we all belong to the same community, like the Korean idiom, hansotbap sikgu — ‘we eat rice out of the same bowl’.”

Read Danielle Krull’s full article, “Have You Eaten?” originally published in *Inheritance Magazine*.

<https://www.inheritancemag.com/stories/have-you-eaten>

Warm-up Question

What food has brought your family or your community together? What food would be on the table? What are typical leftovers you would take home?

Context: Grasping the Gospel of Mark

Miracles

Miracles were seen as events that override natural order and inspire wonder. They show power that can only be from God. Miracles did not create belief but created a moment for people to choose faith. Miracles in the New Testament were often centered on compassion.

Food Staples

Bread and fish were considered staple foods for a Hebrew diet. Bread was so essential that it was interchangeable with the word 'food'. In Jesus' time fish was the main source of protein. Jesus often used fishing illustrations in his teaching. About half of his disciples were skilled fishermen, and a few of his miracles revolved around fish and fishing.

Mark 6:30-44 (CEB)

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹ Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." ³² They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

³³ Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. ³⁴ When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

³⁵ Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, "This is an isolated place, and it's already late in the day. ³⁶ Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat for themselves."

³⁷ He replied, "You give them something to eat."

But they said to him, "Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months' pay and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸ He said to them, "How much bread do you have? Take a look."

After checking, they said, "Five loaves of bread and two fish."

³⁹ He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² Everyone ate until they were full. ⁴³ They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ About five thousand had eaten.

Discussing the Story in Mark:

1. What do you notice about Jesus, the disciples, and the crowd?
 - a. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do initially?
 - b. Jesus allows the crowd to interrupt their intentions to rest. What might the disciples be experiencing or potentially feeling in this passage?
2. Why does Jesus give his attention to the crowd?
 - a. In the passage it says, "They were like sheep without a shepherd," how important was it to have a leader figure that cared for them?
 - b. How does Jesus care for them?
3. Imagine you are part of the crowd.
 - a. What would it be like to see thousands of people sitting together on the grass eating together like at a banquet?
 - b. How would you be experiencing Jesus?
4. Imagine you are one of the disciples. You started with five loaves and two fish then ended by feeding everyone, eating yourself, and having leftovers.
 - a. How would you be processing what happened?
 - b. When Jesus said, "You give them something to eat," what was Jesus trying to help you notice about the crowd? Why did he say this?
5. What would have happened if Jesus hadn't allowed the crowd to interrupt?
 - a. What would have happened if the disciples hadn't checked what food was among them?
6. To the disciples and the crowd, Jesus is a caretaker, leader and mentor. How have you experienced Jesus as a caretaker, leader or mentor?
 - a. What would it be like to consider Jesus as an older mentor that you look up to? (Jesus as your *Anna, Hyung, Kuya, Bong*, etc)
 - b. How is Jesus helping you, as he helped the disciples, notice the crowd on your campus?

Experiencing God's Hospitality

Jesus receives, honors, and multiplies the five loaves and two fish after someone shares these staple foods. As a result, five thousand feast together at this "banquet on the green grass," echoing God's promise in Isaiah 55. Jesus invites the disciples to recognize what is happening and to grow into becoming shepherds to their people.

There is an invitation to receive and participate in God's hospitality. Jesus develops hospitable shepherd leaders and honors one person's generosity by multiplying it to be more than enough.

Gleaning and Growing from Stories

1. In the passage the staple foods were fish and bread. Now imagine that the foods Jesus multiplied were the foods you grew up with and that the crowd was your community. How does the story change for you? How does it make you feel?
2. Share a time where you or another shared something that blessed a whole community. Or recount a moment where sharing felt like more than enough.
3. Reflect on a time where an interruption ended in a way you didn't expect. What did you learn about yourself? How do you hope to respond to future interruptions?
4. How do you want to grow into becoming a leader or mentor that cares for others well?

Check out questions:

What is something you are taking from today? Or what is something you want to keep digesting or chewing on this week?