



small groups

Discussion Guide



Becoming Responsive

Mark 6:34-44

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

Discuss

- This week's passage is about a miraculous dinner. What's the best meal you've ever eaten?
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Lesson Review

(40 minutes)

Read Mark 6:34-44

Read Exodus 18:13-27

Read Matthew 26:26-28

In the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus may have been creating references to the Exodus and the Last Supper.

Discuss

- What other metaphors or parallels do you see in the Mark passage?

This week's Life Mark is "responsive to the needs of others." Andy gave three tips for cultivating this life mark:

1. See the needs of others along your path.

If you want to do the work of God, pay attention to people. Notice them. Especially the people nobody else notices.

– John Ortberg

See people with needs as Jesus saw them – not as people in our way, but as people on our path, not as 'others', but 'us'.

– Donna O'Reilly

Discuss

- Can you think of other examples from Jesus' life wherein he took notice of someone who others overlooked? Page through the gospels and see if you can find at least three such stories.

2. Speak words of hope to people on your path.

Andy used the example of Jason and Leah – two IBCers who ministered to a Polish immigrant named Monika, who is now an IBCer herself.

Discuss

- Who has taken notice of you on your journey? Is there someone who spoke into your life and helped your faith grow?

3. Serve people on your path with God's help.

If you can't do great things, Mother Teresa used to say, do little things with great love. If you can't do them with great love, do them with a little love. If you can't do them with a little love, do them anyway. Love grows when people serve.

– John Ortberg

Application

(15 minutes)

Discuss

- Who has God seemed to be putting in your path lately?
- What do they need most?
- How can you help?

Life Marks

As we move through this series, we'll be building a list of six characteristics of a mature disciple. Each week, we'll add another of these "life marks" to the list.

A mature disciple of Jesus is:

- Regularly engaged in time with the Father
- Wholly devoted to God's perfect will
- Graciously disposed toward all
- Intimately connected to a few
- Responsive to the needs of others

