

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Are You Hungry?

January 22 & 23, 2022

Spiritual hunger runs deep in our world, but it's hard for people to experience the fullness of God when they struggle with an empty stomach. We proclaim the love of God powerfully when we provide for the needs of hungry people around the world. Jesus had compassion on the hungry crowds and fed them in a miraculous way.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 6:5-13

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

In the first few verses of John 6, we learn the motivation of most of the people in the crowd. They had seen Jesus performing signs by healing the sick. So those who were sick followed him in the hope to be healed. And some wanted to be there to witness the sensational miracles for themselves. For some it was to be entertained. However, as we read on, when the day went by, the people felt their stomachs protest. Most of them had not eaten for many hours. They were hungry! Their attention changes from wanting healing or miracles or entertainment to food. They couldn't hear or focus on anything until they were no longer hungry.

That is true for all people. We can't focus on anything when we are starving. We need food to survive, we need food to thrive. Psychologist Maslow claims that our physical needs for food, water and shelter are the most basic and fundamental. He claimed that if the most basic needs in the bottom of the pyramid have not been met, then needs higher up in the pyramid cannot be met. It is very difficult, if not impossible to tend any other needs we would desire until we have enough to eat. In our gospel story, Jesus provides for physical hunger, because in order to fill our spiritual hunger, our physical hunger must be met first. Jesus made sure there was enough food, more than enough in our scripture story. And Jesus has made sure that there is more than enough for both the physical and spiritual hunger to be filled for all people now. There is more than enough food to feed the world. However, there is a distribution problem. So how can we, as followers of Jesus, of those who long to have our spiritual hunger filled do about it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when experienced extreme physical hunger. What was that like?
- How might you read this familiar story through a refreshed lens today? What stands out to you?
- In what ways have you seen Prince of Peace provide for the physical needs of others?
- How can we, as a community of faith, lean into this calling to care for the hunger of those around us?

APPLICATION: This week, consider one way you might be able to help provide for those that are hungry, both physically and spiritually. Where is God calling you to take a step into planting hope for the hungry?