

MERCY WORKS

Part 2 of Fall Restart

The Cornerstone Youth Group. September 17, 2025.

PRAYER: THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven ...

WORSHIP IN SONG

My Savior, my God.

NEXT WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday, we will not meet here on campus. Instead, we will meet at the Blue Water Area Men's Mission, where we'll serve dinner to the men.

Please bring desserts, such as cookies, brownies, or banana bread.

BIBLE STUDY: INTRODUCTION

You might be asking why we're going to the men's mission. It's a good question, and I have an excellent answer for you.

Serving dinner to homeless men is a work of mercy. And showing mercy to people who are going through hard times is a good thing. It's

such a good thing that our own Lord Jesus Christ also did works of mercy.

Let's take a few minutes to read about a time Jesus showed mercy to people in need of help - a hungry crowd in need of food, John 6:1-14.

JOHN 6:1-14 (CSB)

After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). 2 A huge crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was performing by healing the sick. 3 Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

4 Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. 5 So when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat? " 6 He asked this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough for each of them to have a little."

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish — but what are they for so many? "

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."

There was plenty of grass in that place; so they sat down. The men numbered about five thousand. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and

after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated — so also with the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 When they were full, he told his disciples, “Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.” 13 So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten.

14 When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions to get a good idea of what happened.

1. In addition to Jesus, who else was in the story?
2. Why was the huge crowd following Jesus?
3. What food did the disciples find? Did they think it was enough?
4. How did the people respond to the miracle?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions to figure out the meaning of the story.

1. How was Jesus able to have so much faith and confidence that there would be enough food for the massive crowd? Did God ever

do something similar in the past? Read Numbers 11:31-32 and Exodus 16:4 to see what God can do for hungry people.

2. Who were the people referring to when they called Jesus the Prophet? Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18. Were they correct? Is Jesus more than the Prophet? Clue: Who provided food in abundance in Numbers 11 and Exodus 16? So, who is Jesus?
3. There are two big ideas found in this passage:
 - Jesus is the promised Prophet like Moses, and he is more than that: He is the God who has mercy and provides abundantly.
 - Jesus/God is full of mercy for people in need. He abundantly provided for the hungry people.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions to find present-day applications.

1. Since Jesus is God, how should we respond to him?
2. What might Jesus do through us if we, like the little boy, offer him what we have (time, energy, skills, personality, abilities, money, willingness, availability), not what we don't have? What do you think of the expression, "little is much when God is in it"?
3. What can we expect when we serve at the Men's Mission? What do you hope will happen?
4. Beyond next week's mercy work at the Men's Mission, what else could you do to show God's mercy to people in need?