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PRAYER

Pray that we'll learn to allow God to bring us back to our original design for being in a place of resting in Him.

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

When is the last time something you owned broke? Did you attempt to fix it? If so, how did your attempt turn out?

NOTES

WORD

⁹And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given. ¹⁰He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, ¹¹and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. ¹²And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus. ¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

[Matthew 14:9-21](#) (ESV)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 - 10, (1 = under extreme hardship, 10 = in a place of ease), what is your current stress level and why?
2. Jesus had just learnt of his cousin, John, being unjustly beheaded in the king's court. Jesus went away to spend time in solitude. How have you responded to sad news in the past?
3. Before Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes with five loaves of bread and two fish, he looked to heaven. Why do you think he did that? What would you do if you needed a miracle?
4. What do you think of Jesus' response to feeding the hungry crowd, as opposed to his disciples, who told Jesus to dismiss them? What do you think of the crowd pursuing Jesus, despite the very public assassination of his dear cousin John? How would you have handled a similar situation?

PRAYER LIST