

NOTES:

When we think we have enough, Jesus is more.

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

I LOVE food (Alumnus, A.J. Vega here) This one time when I was in New Orleans for an internship, I visited a small tourist restaurant that didn't seem like much. As I walked in there for lunch, I had the most incredible cheeseburger I have ever tasted in my entire life. It was a transcendent experience. All of the flavors and ingredients were perfectly put together and I will never forget that experience. Since then, I have been on the search for the best burger in the entire world!

Have you ever had an experience like that? Where you couldn't get enough of an incredible feeling? Maybe it was a certain food, or a specific vacation, or even a mission trip. You look back and scroll through pictures, wishing that there were more moments like that.

READ

Mark 8:1-10

In this passage, the crowds could not get enough of Jesus. They stayed with Him until they went physically hungry! Even when there was not much food to feed 4,000 people, Jesus still had compassion on them and fed them and they were satisfied. Even more, they took up an abundance of leftovers, filling seven baskets of extra food! Even when they thought they had enough, Jesus was more than they could possibly imagine. Not only did He fill them physically but filled them spiritually with His presence and compassion. That's much better than the world's best cheeseburger.





During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, $\ensuremath{^2}$ "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³ If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." ⁴ His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" " "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. ⁶ He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. 7 They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. ⁸ The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ⁹ About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, ¹⁰ he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

- Mark 8:1-10

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to discuss:

1. What's the best meal that you've ever eaten? Why was it so good?

2. Have you ever tried to find satisfaction in a certain experience that you once had?

3. Take a look at Mark 8:1-10. How much food did they provide for the crowds? How many leftovers did they have after everyone ate? What does that show us about God?

4. Jesus feeds the 4,000 with only seven loaves of bread. He fed the hungry and had compassion on them. What does this show about the character of Jesus?

DIG DEEPER

(now, later, alone, in a group):

1. What areas of your life are you feeling "hungry?" Where has Jesus been abundantly gracious to you lately?

2. Where do you need to be reminded that Jesus provides for us abundantly in your life?

3. When have there been times when God provided an overabundance for you? How did you respond?

PRAYER PRACTICE FOR GROUPS/PARTNERS:

If you are in a group: Ask for prayers from the group. Maybe there is a specific prayer request in response to the reading you read together. Allow for time for those to share. Then go in a circle and pray for each other out loud.



PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for providing for your children by offering the gift of your Son, Jesus. Help us to see your great love as our greatest abundance. We are grateful for all we have been given in this life. May we bless others with our time, talent, and treasure. When we think we have enough, Jesus, you are even more. In Jesus Name, **Amen**.



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