

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: Gospel of John

Text: John 6:1–15

Theme: Pitas, Pickles, and Provision

Opening Prayer

Take a few minutes to invite the Spirit into your time together. Ask God to reveal Himself through His Word and through each other.

Icebreaker

Q: What's a meal or food memory from childhood that stands out—and why?

Read the Passage

John 6:1–15

Have someone read the passage aloud

Discussion Questions

1. Setting the Scene

- What stood out to you in this passage that maybe you hadn't noticed before?
- Why do you think John makes a point to mention that the Passover was near? What does that tell us about the crowd's mindset and expectations of Jesus?

2. Jesus the Provider

- Contrast the different reactions to Jesus in chapters 5 and 6 (opposition vs. coronation attempt). What does this say about how people respond to Jesus' identity and mission?
- How does the miracle of feeding the 5,000 connect to the larger story of God's provision in Israel's history?
- What do you think it means when Greg said, "If we're going to leave full, we have to come hungry"?

3. The Boy, the Bread, and the Pickled Fish

- How does the boy's offering challenge the way we think about what we can give to God?

- What "pitas and pickled fish" (small, ordinary things) are in your hands right now that you could offer to Jesus?
- Have you ever felt like what you had to give wasn't enough? How does this story reshape that thinking?

4. The Power of Prayer

- Jesus gives thanks before distributing the bread. How does this simple act challenge the way we see prayer—not as prelude, but as power?
- Share a time when you saw God provide or work in response to prayer in an unexpected way.

5. Gospel Implications

- The people wanted a king to deliver them from Rome. Jesus came to deliver them from sin. How does this correct or confront the kind of "savior" we sometimes want?
- What do you think it means to be "bread people"? How can your life point others to the Bread of Life?

Application

Q: What's one small, practical way you can bring what you have to Jesus this week—your time, gifts, relationships, even your limits—and ask Him to multiply it?

Closing Prayer

Pray for one another. Ask God to help you:

- See Him as the true provider,
- Trust Him with your small offerings,
- Experience His sufficiency,
- And grow in hunger for His presence above all else.

Encourage the group to pray expectantly, trusting that God really *does* move through prayer.