

# TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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**Everyone needs to be cared for**, and we receive that care in a multitude of ways: through our families, friends, congregation, medical professionals, government. . . the list of care-givers is endless. Since we need care, there are apps for care: At the press of a finger, we can be in touch with our pharmacy, our therapist, our doctor's office. The "app" God provides for us when we need care is a Shepherd, One who laid down his life for his sheep, one who never failed to provide what was needed by those who needed care. Let's grow closer this week to the care of our Shepherd, Jesus.

1. Read Mark 6:30-44, then read the first 30 verses of Mark 6. What are the numerous events which have occurred with precede the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000? How might each one of those events prepared the disciples for the miracle?
2. Read again 6:30-34. How would you answer someone who told you, "The needs of others come first?" How do (or how should you) set healthy boundaries?
3. Look up a sample of occasions the Lord was displeased with those who were called to shepherd his flock: Jer. 50:6, Zech. 11:16-17, and Eze. 34:2-10. What were they doing wrong or failing to do which was perfectly fulfilled by Jesus?
4. Back to Mk. 6: What can you see in the symbolism that the leftovers were gathered into 12 baskets. . . why 12?
5. What in your life right now is opportunity to serve which seems impossible; pray for one another about those things.

We pray: Good Shepherd, Lord Jesus, we have gathered as your sheep, and together we declare:

we are your flock, and our trust is in you. Our hope is in you. Our life is in you. Open then our ears to hear your voice, Good Shepherd, so that we receive the care you desire to give us. We pray it in your name, Good Shepherd, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are One God, now and forever; amen.