

EATING
AND
DRINKING
VGROUP
STUDY



VINTAGE PRESS

Eating and Drinking: vGroup Study

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JESUS AND THE HUNGRY

Human beings are made to love and care for each other. A child sitting in a car at an intersection has to be taught to avert their eyes from the beggar standing on the side of the street asking for money. Human beings are naturally attuned to the needs of others, this behavior is something that we modify. We justify the calluses we have to put on our hearts by saying that we cannot meet the needs of everyone who ask us for help. We even tell ourselves that we cannot look a beggar in the eye so that the beggar will leave us alone. Perhaps we even adopt this behavior so that we do not have to feel the pain and need that passes between our eyes in those long moments while we wait for the light to change so that we can get home with our groceries.

While thinking on the above lines can be convicting, we must remember the importance of helping well and helping with wisdom. We need to be ready to help, and to help well when we do render aid. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (Moody Publishers, 2014), is a good resource for helping to think about helping well.

- What were some memorable times when you were involved in meeting the needs of people around you?

- What are some of the needs that you see around you?

- What are some of the ways that you are engaged in meeting the needs of people around you?

When we look at Luke 9:10-17 we see Jesus concerned with the physical needs of the people who came out to hear him preach. While Jesus used sparrows and the flowers of the field to show his followers that they did not need to be anxious about their physical needs being met, he also showed his followers genuine concern for physical needs and an ability to meet those needs.

¹⁰On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

Luke 9:10-11

- Why would Jesus take the apostles somewhere away from the crowds?
- In spite of their efforts to draw away from the crowds, the people found and followed Jesus and the apostles. What attracted the crowds to Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond to the crowds? What does this teach us about Jesus?

¹²Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." ¹³But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴For there were about five thousand men.

Luke 9:12-14a

- What was the need of the people who had followed Jesus and the apostles? Why is this need important?
- How did Jesus tell the apostles to meet the need?

- What were the prospects for the apostles meeting the needs of the crowd?

¹⁴And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵And they did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Luke 9:14b-17

- What happened? How did Jesus meet the need of the crowd?
- What was significant about the amount of food leftover?
- What does this story teach us regarding what we give and God's ability to use it?

In [Matthew 25:31-46](#), Jesus outlines what he expects of his followers. He expects them to feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, shelter the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. A follower of Jesus is without excuse; Jesus, in Luke 9, showed his followers through his own example.

In his sermon Pastor Weaver highlighted three elements to take away from the sermon. He pointed out that people will be able to tell if you are a follower of Jesus. He also demonstrated that a follower of Jesus should see and engage the needs around them. Followers of Jesus should especially go about meeting needs in faith.

- After reviewing Luke 9, and checking Matthew 25 if you are not convinced, what do you think is the expectation of a follower of Jesus for seeing and meeting needs around them?

- What might be holding you back from meeting needs around you? How can you overcome those things holding you back?

The sheer volume of need around us can be overwhelming. Thankfully Vintage Church has some amazing ministry partners we work with to meet various needs.

- What are some opportunities to serve both as individuals and as a vGroup that are open to you through Vintage Church?

Check out local opportunities at servenola.com and if you have any questions email the pastors at pastor@vcnola.com.