



Jesus and Global Citizenship

IN THIS ACTIVITY, the participants consider examples of globalization in Jesus' day and look for lessons about active global citizenship in the story of the feeding of the five thousand.

TIME REQUIRED: 30 MINUTES | INTENDED FOR GRADES 9-12



government



economics



Bible studies

MATERIALS NEEDED

- » Bibles, one for each small group of five or six
- » Three sheets of butcher paper
- » A marker
- » A roll of masking tape
- » Visit worldvision.org/lp/acsi-teacher-resources for a video you can show to support this lesson. (optional)

1

Activity Steps

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS to consider what aspects of globalization, as we know it today, might be found in Galilee in Jesus' time. Have them explain or elaborate. Share the following examples:

- » **Imperialism:** The Roman "world order" imposed its values and structures on local culture, customs, and politics. Some collaborated, while others, such as the Zealots, plotted to overthrow it, hoping Jesus might help their cause.
- » **Resource depletion:** Fishermen sold their catch for export even as local stocks became depleted.
- » **Crippling debt:** Farmers produced food for the Roman Empire, not themselves, and paid Roman taxes on the proceeds. Forced into debt, some sold their lands and became poor laborers on the estates of wealthy landowners.

- » Consider the following people in Jesus' day:
 - » poor tenants and laborers
 - » those with leprosy and disabilities
 - » fishermen casting their nets but not catching fish
 - » Roman leaders; wealthy tax collectors
 - » collaborators with Rome; the Zealots who plotted to overthrow Rome
- » Who would be their equivalents in today's world? What parallels can you draw between globalization in Jesus' time and globalization today? What insights can you gain?

2

INVITE THE PARTICIPANTS to form small groups of five or six. Provide each small group with a Bible. Ask that one person in each group read aloud Mark 6:30–44.

3

INVITE THE GROUPS to discuss the story using the following questions (write these on a sheet of butcher paper and post it where all can see):

- » How do you think the disciples felt when seeing the crowds arrive?
- » Jesus says, “You give them something to eat.” Why did the disciples find this alarming?
- » How do you think everyone was really fed?
- » Why do you think the leftover pieces were picked up?
- » Put yourself in this story. Who would you most likely be? How do you think you would have acted?

4

GATHER THE PARTICIPANTS into the large group and ask what this story tells us about the hallmarks of a global citizen. Allow for a few responses. Then write “Global citizens...” on a sheet of butcher paper and post it where all can see. Have the participants complete the sentence. Invite several participants to offer their responses aloud. *[Answers may include: Global citizens take responsibility for people in need, believe that there is enough for all, have an attitude of gratitude and a desire to help others, are good stewards, understand that working for change is difficult but take action anyway.]*

5

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS to gather back in their small groups and share their responses to the following questions (write these on a sheet of butcher paper and post it where all can see):

- » What is God saying to you about active global citizenship?
- » What are you willing to do in response?

Allow some time for the small groups to share their responses, and then gather back as a large group and ask for a summary from each small group.

6

CONCLUDE THE ACTIVITY by inviting the participants to bow their heads as you pray:

- » God of all, help us to recognize all of our sisters and brothers in the global community. Open our hearts to them that we might live in solidarity with this extended family. God of justice and peace, help us to be committed to change unjust structures and to be peacemakers in a suffering world. Empower us to be Christians not only in word but also in compassionate action. Give us the courage to speak out for truth and justice and to prayerfully and patiently call for transformation. May global solidarity and peace be achieved through the power of compassion, understanding, and love. In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace, we pray for global justice. Amen.

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