



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: Willing

Suggested Week of Use: May 2, 2021

Core Passage: Luke 22:41-53

News Story Summary

Ozarks Food Harvest does not want anyone to go hungry. In a network of 270 hunger-relief organizations in 28 counties, the pandemic provided an opportunity to provide food at an elevated rate. This opportunity came with declining donations and disruptions to the food chain. For the first time in their lives, 64,000 individuals acquired food assistance for the first time. The food bank has spent more than \$9 million to date on its COVID-relief response. Since April of 2020, they have provided 22 million meals (reported April 2021).

For more about this story, search: “Ozarks Food Harvest provides record-breaking meals”.

Focus Attention

To supplement the Respond idea under Focus Attention, conclude the suggestion by sharing about the work of the challenges faced by the Ozarks Food Harvest during the pandemic. Lead the group to discuss the challenges faced by both the food bank and the people needing their assistance. Ask: *How has it been necessary to trust God during this time?* Follow the suggestions in Transition.

Summarize and Challenge

To replace the Respond idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the story of the Ozarks Food Harvest. Lead the group to identify ways the organization was willing to meet a need. Emphasize that the organization was formed to meet a need in their area. Call attention to the second question set under Apply the Text (*Discuss as a group ways to minister to others in a way that provides strength, especially during times of suffering and difficulty. What one action will the group take as a result of this discussion?*). Challenge the group to consider opportunities for being involved in the ministry that opens the door for sharing the gospel with others.