**Christian Community brings provision**

Read Mark 6:30-43 (feeding the 5,000)

BACKGROUND: A familiar passage, this is the only miracle (outside the Resurrection and the events surrounding that) that is mentioned in all four gospels. This event took place near the middle of Jesus’s ministry, most likely. It most likely followed trying times for Jesus and His disciples; most gospels record this even directly after either the beheading of John the Baptist, or the return of the twelve from their time preaching the gospel in pairs, apart from Jesus.

* Why might Jesus have told the disciples “You feed them”?
* Who in the story best represents today’s Christian community? What does this story show us about Christian community?

**Christian Community provides accountability**

Read Galatians 2:11-16 (Paul calls out Peter)

BACKGROUND: Christianity began as, basically, a sect of Judaism. Jesus, His followers, His opponents, and the majority of His listeners were Jewish. Early in the book of Acts, however, the gospel began to be spread to the Gentiles. This brought a new controversy to light: some contended that Gentile converts had to convert to Judaism to become “Christian” and that Jews should continue to remain separate from the “unclean” Gentiles (particularly while eating), while others held that they did not. Peter generally held with those that said that they did not; however, on this one occasion, influential leaders from the Jewish church visited Peter and pressured him into distancing himself from the Gentiles with which he had been associated. Paul saw this, and confronted Peter about it.

* Many of us are familiar with the procedure that Jesus laid out for bringing back an erring brother or sister (Matthew 18:15-17). Why does Paul directly call Peter out in front of everyone? Do you think Paul handled the situation correctly
* Have there been times in your life where a sister or brother in Christ has “corrected” you? If so, how did they do it, and were their methods effective?
* What are some ways that we can encourage others to hold us accountable?

**Wrap-up questions**

BACKGROUND: Summer is close. It can be hard to make fellowship a priority, as these months are quick, and we often feel out of place back home.

* What do you find is the hardest part of pursuing community during non-school months?
* What are some specific strategies to counter these difficulties?
* What are some specific examples of ways that community has effectively provided for you or held you accountable in the past?