



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of February 20, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- As you get older, do you find yourself becoming more or less like your parents?

The Context

When we are overwhelmed and ill-equipped to meet an impossible situation in our life, we may be exactly where God wants us to be. When we are faced with the impossible it forces us to turn to Jesus and lean upon his strength and power in our lives. In John chapter 6, Jesus is again in Galilee healing the sick and doing what only the Son of God can do. The crowds are following him and Jesus asks Philip a question to test him. Jesus asks where they are going to buy bread so that the crowd can eat. Philip's response is that 200 denarii, 8 months worth of wages, would not be enough to feed the crowd of over 5,000 that was following Jesus. Andrew finds a very small boy who has 5 barley loaves and 2 very small fish. Andrew's response is that this small snack is not enough to feed the crowd. Both Philip and Andrew (who were representative of the other disciples) are convinced that feeding the crowd is impossible. That's when Jesus steps forward and changes everything. Jesus prays and instructs the disciples to hand out the fish and loaves. The miraculous happens when everyone in the crowd (as many as 20,000) ate until they were full! The disciples even pick up 12 baskets of left-overs from the abundance of the miracle.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 6:1-15 CSB

"After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). A huge crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was performing by healing the sick. Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. So when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat?" He asked this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish — but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place; so they sat down. The men numbered about five thousand. Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated — so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were full, he told his disciples, "Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted." So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Therefore, when Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself."

Discuss

1. What does this miracle teach us about God's sufficiency?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when God provided more than you needed?
3. Other than the resurrection of Jesus, this is the only other miracle of Jesus that is recorded in each of the four gospels. How important is this miracle in the life of Jesus?
4. Read the four accounts in Matthew 13:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, and Luke 9:10-17. How are the accounts similar? Are there any differences?
5. Share about a time when you faced an impossible situation where you felt overwhelmed and completely unable to meet the needs of your situation? Talk about your specific situation. What did you do and how did you get through it?
6. Have you ever experienced God doing far more with your limited abilities or resources than you imagined? How? What happened?
7. How have you experienced God himself being more than enough for you? How did that experience transform and grow your faith? What did it display about God's sufficiency?
8. As a rule, what is your first reaction when you experience fear, pain, stress, or trouble? Was it hard to turn to God in the midst of your situation?
9. How much food was picked up after everyone had eaten and was filled? Is there anything significant about the number of baskets that were filled with left-overs?
10. Does the way you react to difficult situations reflect the strength of your faith? Can your response in the midst of trials influence non-Christians who may be observing your life?

Challenge

Make a list of impossible things in your life that you want to surrender to Jesus. The list might include the name of a person who needs to believe in Jesus as their Savior, or a dollar amount that would get you out of debt, a dream to do something big for God and his Kingdom. Make a commitment to pray daily over your list.

End Your Group Time in Prayer