



CELL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

READ | Mark 6:30-44, John 6:1-15 together.

This particular miracle of Jesus reveals many wonderful truths about the God that we serve. Firstly, God is a God of rest! Just like how Jesus wanted to lead His disciples to a place of rest, God desires to lead us to a place of rest – in Him (Mark 6:31)! Secondly, God is a God who cares! He cares about our needs, whether they are small or big. But not only does He care, He wants to meet those needs in our lives and He does not stop at anything to meet our needs. This is His heart for us (Mark 6:34). Thirdly, God is a God of abundant provision! When God provides, He does so spectacularly – from 5 loaves and 2 fish to a meal that fed 10000 or possibly more – and 12 basketfuls leftover (Mark 6:32-34)! Our God is a God who wants to give us rest, meet our needs and provide for us abundantly! And these are attributes of God that we can trust in and hold on to no matter what storms we may face.

PROBLEM-SOLVING GOD'S WAY

One of the most interesting insights we can take away from this miracle of Jesus is the way God solves problems. We see from the disciples' journey that just like us, their immediate response was to solve the problem of a hungry crowd in the natural: Mark 6:36 "Send them away." This would have been the most logical and practical solution to the problem at hand.

The disciples do well to come to Jesus with their solution but He gives them another answer to their problem, one that seems completely unreasonable and impossible to achieve: Mark 6:37 – 38 "You give them something to eat. ... How many loaves do you have? Go and see." In fact Jesus was not merely giving the disciples an alternative solution, He was testing their hearts with His response to see if they would look to Him!

Simple obedience is challenging because very often it seems like an unlikely means of solving the problem we face. In fact it is one thing to listen for the supernatural and another thing to simply obey. However as we see there is great blessing in simple obedience to the Word and voice of God. This time, the disciples respond with the right posture of heart – they just do what Jesus asks them to, without fully understanding why they were doing what they did.

SHARE | Think through a problem you need to solve or a need that has to be met. What has your approach been so far? Have you taken the time to bring that need before the Lord and listen for the supernatural? Remember, God tests our hearts with His response. Why do you think simple obedience is such a challenge for us? What are some practical handles you can share about growing in simple obedience?

5 LOAVES 2 FISH

They may not seem like much, but when surrendered to God what is little becomes abundance! We need to trust God with our 5 loaves and 2 fish – whatever they may be. Sometimes we may not even realize what our 5 loaves and 2 fish are – but they are what little we have available – resource, heart, time, talent. Trusting Him with what we have is part of the faith journey we are to take if we truly want to grow in our walk with Him.

ASK | What are your 5 loaves and 2 fish today? Share with each other how you sense God is leading you in your journey to trust Him with your 5 loaves and 2 fish.

PRAY | For each other. Ask the Lord for boldness to surrender to the Him the little you have and for faith to arise in your heart as you trust Him to multiply what you place in His hands!