

Study Guide Questions

Series: TD12

Message: The Fundamentals

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Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Read Matthew 14:1-13

- What did John do to incur Herod's wrath? Have you ever been a recipient of someone else's wrath for speaking truth and calling out sin? What lessons can we learn from John the Baptist about suffering and persecution?
- Jesus displays a regular practice of solitude (see *Matthew 15:21, 15:29, Luke 4:1-2, 14-15, Mark 6:30-32, Luke 6:12-13, Luke 22:39-44, Luke 5:16*). Is this spiritual practice a rhythm in your life? If so, what value have you seen it bring? If solitude is not a rhythm in your life, what steps can you take to incorporate it?

Read Matthew 14:14-21

- Share about a time when God did something that goes beyond conventional wisdom, either in your life or in the life of someone you know.
- Have you ever been frustrated with God not "showing up"? Has this impacted your belief or willingness to step out and trust God?
- Jesus wants us to be dependent upon Him. **John 15** shares that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We can do nothing apart from Him. And with faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing is impossible. Are you good at being dependent upon Jesus or do you find that you first go to other sources? What does dependency on Jesus look like in your life?



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- It's easy to show compassion for those who are considerate and kind. It's easy to respond with "my pleasure" to people who say "thank you." But none of us has a proclivity to love people who are rude, entitled, mean, or selfish. Aren't you glad that Jesus does? New Covenant's mission statement is, "We pursue God, pursue others and practice His ways." How are you pursuing others who do not show you kindness?
- Jesus uses this miracle as an opportunity to equip and develop His disciples. Into what growth opportunities are you feeling the Holy Spirit lead you?
- This week's Big Idea is: In faith bring your little to Jesus first and trust Him to provide for you and others. What can keep you from bringing your little to Jesus?
- **Read Ephesians 3:20-21** In this miracle Jesus did not provide just enough food, but He provided exceedingly, abundantly and beyond what the disciples likely imagined possible. What application can you draw from this principle to apply to your life?



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