

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Luke 9:10–17 — Jesus Provides, Disciples Distribute

1. Reflection on Last Week's Practice

Begin the group by reflecting on the spiritual practice you committed to last week.

This is not about success or failure. The purpose is to notice what happened as you tried to live intentionally as a disciple during the week.

Group Leader Prompt

Invite each person to briefly share.

Possible reflection questions:

- What practice did you commit to last week?
- When were you most aware of practicing it during the week?
- What felt difficult or challenging about it?
- Did you notice anything about your heart, your habits, or your relationship with God?
- Where did you sense growth, even if it was small?

After several people share, thank the group for practicing faithfully and transition to reflecting on the sermon.

2. Reflecting on the Sermon

Text: Luke 9:10–17

Big Idea

When compassion reveals our limits, Jesus teaches us to trust His provision.

Jesus provides. Disciples distribute.

Sermon Outline for Group Reflection

Hook — Compassion Beyond Our Capacity

- Discipleship begins with trusting Jesus for forgiveness and restoration.
- As we follow Christ, His love begins to shape our lives.
- As love grows, compassion grows.

- Eventually we encounter a moment where compassion exceeds our ability to help.
 - The question: *What do disciples do when the need is greater than what they can provide?*
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1. Disciples Notice the Need

Luke 9:12

The disciples recognize the problem: thousands of people are hungry in a remote place.

- Compassion begins by seeing.
- As disciples grow in Christlike love, they start to notice the needs around them.
- The disciples offer a practical solution: send the crowd away.

This mirrors our own instinct.

We often try to solve problems in ways that cost us very little.

But Jesus often leads us somewhere deeper.

2. Compassion Reveals the Disciples' Limits

Luke 9:13

“You give them something to eat.”

This command exposes the reality:

- The disciples care about the people
- But they cannot meet the need

This moment happens frequently for disciples today.

Many believers experience it when they encounter deep suffering or overwhelming need.

Jesus uses compassion to reveal an important truth:

We cannot provide what the world ultimately needs.

But Christ can.

The moment of limitation becomes an invitation to return to faith.

3. Jesus Uses What We Bring

Luke 9:16

Jesus takes five loaves and two fish.

- Jesus takes what they have
- Jesus blesses it
- Jesus multiplies it

The blessing prayer reminds us that all provision ultimately comes from God.

Even the work of human hands is part of God's provision.

Jesus is teaching the disciples that they are part of the chain of provision.

4. Jesus Multiplies — Disciples Distribute

“He kept giving them to the disciples.”

Imagine the rhythm:

Disciples receive from Jesus.

Disciples walk to the crowd.

Disciples distribute the food.

Disciples return to Jesus.

Again and again.

The miracle reveals a pattern of discipleship:

Jesus supplies the compassion.

Disciples pass it along.

Pastoral Insight — Compassion Fatigue

Compassion fatigue often happens when we try to become the **source** instead of the **vessel**.

Disciples remain healthy by returning regularly to Jesus through:

- Prayer
- Worship
- Christian community
- Sometimes wise counseling

You cannot give what you have not received.

3. Group Discussion (Bloom's Taxonomy)

These questions help us move from simple observation to deeper spiritual reflection.

Understanding

What problem do the disciples notice in Luke 9:10–17?

What is surprising about Jesus' response when He tells the disciples to feed the crowd?

Interpretation

Why do you think Jesus asks the disciples to do something they clearly cannot accomplish on their own?

What do the five loaves and two fish represent in the story?

Application

Where do you see needs around you that feel larger than what you can realistically meet?

What might it look like to bring those situations to Jesus rather than trying to solve them alone?

Analysis

What is the difference between trying to help people out of our own strength and serving as a vessel of Christ's compassion?

Why do you think many people in helping roles experience compassion fatigue?

Reflection

When have you experienced a moment where your compassion exceeded your ability?

How might trusting Jesus' provision change how you respond in those situations?

4. Storying Exercise

Related Scripture:

2 Kings 4:42–44 — Elisha Feeds One Hundred People

Read the story aloud together.

Then close Bibles and try to retell the story as a group.

Encourage participants to reconstruct the scene together.

What details do you remember?

What happens in the story?

After retelling the story, discuss:

- What similarities do you see between this story and the feeding of the five thousand?
- What does this story teach about God's provision?
- What role do human servants play in distributing God's provision?

This story reminds us that throughout Scripture, God often works through people who bring small offerings in faith.

5. Practice for the Week

This week we will practice living as **vessels of Christ's compassion**.

You may continue practicing something you began last week, or you may choose a new practice based on today's discussion.

Consider these three simple practices:

1. Notice a Need

Ask God to open your eyes to someone who is struggling, lonely, or discouraged.

Pay attention throughout the week.

2. Offer What You Have

Offer something simple:

- Time
- Listening

- Encouragement
- Help
- Generosity

It may feel small.

That is exactly how this story begins.

3. Return to Jesus Often

Remember the rhythm of the disciples:

Receive from Jesus → Serve → Return again.

Stay connected to Christ through prayer, worship, and community.

6. Personal Commitment

Take a moment to write down what you will practice this week.

The practice I will focus on this week is:

A specific way I will live this out is:

Closing Prayer

Close the group in prayer.

Lord Jesus,

you see needs that we often overlook.

Teach us to trust your provision rather than our own strength.

Help us bring what we have to you.

Make us faithful vessels of your compassion in the world.

Amen.