

Small Group Guide: Signs - Feeding the 5,000

John 6:1-15

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you had very little to offer but saw God do something significant with it. Or, what's one way you've been "fed" (spiritually, emotionally, physically) by your community recently?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Love the Land Initiative:** We are called to listen, learn, and love our community through practical service (supporting LIFE Food Pantry this month)
2. **Jesus as Greater Than Moses:** This miracle parallels Moses feeding Israel in the wilderness, but reveals Jesus as more than a prophet—He is God Himself
3. **Signs Point to Jesus:** The miracles weren't just about meeting physical needs; they point to Jesus as the Bread of Life who satisfies our deepest spiritual hunger
4. **The "Not Much" Principle:** God multiplies our small offerings when we place them in His hands
5. **Why We Follow:** Are we following Jesus for what He can give us, or are we surrendering to serve Him?

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read John 6:1-15 together.** What stands out to you most in this passage? What questions does it raise?
2. The sermon highlighted parallels between Moses and Jesus (Passover timing, crossing water, feeding in wilderness). Why do you think Jesus intentionally recreated this Moses narrative? What was He trying to communicate?
3. After the miracle, people wanted to "make Jesus king by force" (v. 15). What does this reveal about their motivations? How is wanting a "puppet" different from wanting a true King?

Personal Reflection

4. **The "Not Much" Challenge:** The boy only had five loaves and two fish—his lunch. What is your "not much" that you've been hesitant to offer to God? (Time? Talents? Resources? Energy?)
5. Jesus asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people?" even though He already knew what He would do. When has God tested your faith by presenting an impossible situation? How did you respond?
6. The sermon asked: "Do you follow Jesus only as long as He gives you what you desire?" Be honest—in what areas of your life are you trying to use Jesus for your agenda rather than surrendering to His?

Practical Application

7. **For Parents:** How can you give your "not much" energy at the end of a long day and trust God to multiply it in your children's lives?
8. **For Spouses:**
 - Husbands: What small acts of service could you offer this week (coffee, laundry, prayer)?
 - Wives: How can you speak encouraging words that revive your husband's soul?

9. **For Friends/Co-workers:** Where is God calling you to offer simple presence, encouragement, or help—even when it feels like "not much"?

Going Deeper

The Heart Check

10. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). What are you currently feeding on to satisfy your soul? Social media? Success? Comfort? Approval? How is that working out?
11. The crowd wanted bread and miracles, but missed that Jesus was offering eternal life. What temporary things are you pursuing that might be causing you to miss what Jesus really wants to give you?
12. Read John 6:66-69 (the passage following this miracle). Many disciples left Jesus after His "bread of life" teaching. Peter responded, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." What would cause you to stay with Jesus even when following Him is difficult?

Application & Action Steps

This Week's Challenge: The "Not Much" Experiment

Choose ONE area to practice giving your "not much" to Jesus:

Option 1 - Love the Land:

- Visit lovelandchristianchurch.org and select items to donate to Life Food Pantry
- Pray over the items before you bring them, asking God to multiply their impact
- Consider serving with your family or small group at Life Food Pantry

Option 2 - In Your Home:

- Parents: Commit to 15 minutes of focused presence with each child this week
- Spouses: Practice one small act of service (husbands) or one specific encouragement (wives) daily
- Singles: Reach out to encourage or serve one person who needs support

Option 3 - In Your Circle:

- Identify someone in your life who is "hungry" (lonely, discouraged, overwhelmed)
- Offer your "not much"—a text, a coffee, a listening ear, practical help
- Don't try to fix everything; just show up

Group Commitment

As a group, discuss: How can we collectively give our "not much" this month? Could we serve together at Life Food Pantry? Pool resources for a family in need? Support each other in specific ways?

Memory Verse

John 6:35 - "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

Closing Reflection & Prayer

Reflect: "It's not about what's in your hands. It's about whose hands you give these things to."

Group Prayer Focus:

- Pray for humility to offer our "not much" without shame
- Pray for faith to trust God to multiply what we give
- Pray for LIFE Food Pantry and those facing food insecurity
- Pray that our lives would be signs pointing others to Jesus

Closing Prayer: Have each person pray briefly, offering their specific "not much" to God and asking Him to multiply it for His glory.

Before Next Week

- Read John 6:25-59 (Jesus' teaching on being the Bread of Life)
- Journal about what you're truly hungry for and how Jesus satisfies that hunger
- Share with the group (via text/group chat) one way you saw God multiply your "not much" this week