

## Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Lesson in the Lurchable”     Matthew 14:13-21     Sept. 8, 2018

### Getting Started

We serve a God who lacks nothing, but gave everything to possess something that only love could buy. What is it that only love could buy? YOU! Jesus paid the high price out of the overflow of generosity and grace to lead you to live the same way towards others. What do you have to offer? MORE THAN YOU THINK!

What do you think are your 3 greatest talents, gifts or strengths that you have to offer God?

### Going Deeper

1. **Know People are your Priority:** *“gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases...On their return the apostles told him all that **they** had done”* (Luke 9:1,10)
  - a. **He Went:** *“When he went ashore”* (Matt. 14:14)
  - b. **He Saw:** *“He saw a great crowd”* (Matt. 14:14)
  - c. **He Had:** *“compassion on them”* (Matt. 14:14)
    - i. **Lacked Leading:** *“they were sheep without a shepherd”* (Mark 6:34)
    - ii. **Lacked Healing:** *“cured those who had need of healing”* (Luke 9:11)
    - iii. **Lacked Learning:** *“began to teach them many things...spoke to them on the kingdom of God”* (Mark 6:34, Luke 9:11)

It's so easy for us to get annoyed with people who live foolish or empty lives. Yet, how would our perspective change if we realized they lacked leading, healing, and learning? How can you change your heart so you start seeing people with compassion? What can you do to lead, heal, and teach others about the only One (Jesus) who can wisdom and fullness to their lives?

**2. Keep Perspective in your Problems:** *Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”<sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.* (John 6:5-6)

**a. Examined their Situation:**

- i. **Remote Location:** *“for we are here in a desolate place”* (Luke 9:12)
- ii. **Running Late:** *“the hour is now late”* (Mark 6:35)
- iii. **Resources are Lacking:** *Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little”* (John 6:7)

**b. Expressed their Sentiment:** *“Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions”* (Luke 9:12)

The Bible is full of stories of people who didn't think God could fix their problems or remedy their situations. And yet, in every story, His grace, power, and love show through. Share with us about a time when God surprised you by coming through for you in a bad situation.

**3. Know the Pattern for your Provision:**

**a. Requests Trust:**

- i. **He uses the Insignificant:** Andrew said: *“there is a boy here”* (John 6:9)
- ii. **He uses the Insufficient:** *“we have only five loaves here two fish”* (Matt. 14:17)

**b. Requires a Transfer:** *“Bring them here to me”* (Matt. 14:18)

**c. Reveals Transformation:** *“looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples”* (Mark 6:41)

- i. **Jesus Bows:**
- ii. **Jesus Breaks:**
- iii. **Jesus Blesses:**

**d. Revives a Testimony:**

- i. **Shared in the Miracle:** *“and the disciples gave them to the crowds”* (Matt. 14:19)

- ii. **Satisfied by a Miracle:** *“And they all ate and were satisfied”* (Mark 6:42)
- iii. **Statement of the Miracle:** *“Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost... When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”* (John 6:12,14)

Do you see how simple that pattern is? First, we trust that Jesus can handle our problem. Then, we hand it over to Him. Next, we see Him transform our problem, and finally, we have a testimony and a story to tell. Look at the problem you are worrying about right now. How can you put this pattern into effect? Ask your group members to believe in it with you and to pray for you that God meets your need.

**Takeaway:** We desire to be a church that loves people not with the leftovers, but for us to live on the leftovers of God’s miracles, knowing that we will be satisfied with more than enough

## **Prayer Requests**