

Small Group Guide

Week of August 18, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

Available Faith



Icebreaker



- What's the most unusual thing you've ever packed for a trip?
- If you could only pack three items for a weekend getaway, what would they be and why?
- What's the most memorable souvenir you've ever brought back from a trip?



Discussion Questions



- In what areas of your life do you feel "overpacked"? How might this be affecting your availability to God and others?
- Jesus sent out His disciples with almost nothing. How do you think they felt? Have you ever been in a situation where you had to rely completely on God? Share your experience.
- The disciples wanted to send the crowd away, but Jesus said, "You give them something to eat." When have you felt God asking you to do something that seemed impossible? How did you respond?
- The sermon mentions that faith isn't something that just magically increases while we sit back and wait. How have you seen your faith grow through action and obedience?
- The boy who offered his lunch wasn't even counted in the official number, yet God used him significantly. Have you ever felt "uncounted" or insignificant? How does this story encourage you?
- Jesus could have miraculously distributed the food Himself, but He chose to work through the disciples. Why do you think He did this? How might God be wanting to work through you right now?
- The sermon emphasizes that Jesus is the Bread of Life, not just a provider of physical bread. How can we keep our focus on Jesus Himself rather than just on what He can do for us?



Thought for the Group



You know, it's funny how we often pack our lives so full, right? We're like that overstuffed bag at the water park - bulging with stuff we think we need. But here's the thing: Jesus is inviting us to unpack some of that unnecessary baggage and just be available. It's like He's saying, "Hey, I don't need your perfect plan or your fully stocked resources. I just need you to be willing."

Jesus looked at that huge crowd with compassion, but He also saw His tired, hungry disciples. And instead of just making food appear, He said to them, "You give them something to eat." Can you imagine how they felt?

But here's the cool part - Jesus took their "not enough" and made it more than enough. It's like He's saying to us, "What's in your hands? What little bit of time, energy, or resources do you have? Bring it to me, and watch what I can do with it."

And get this - the kid who offered his lunch? He wasn't even counted in the official number. But God used him in a big way. So if you're ever feeling insignificant or overlooked, remember - you count to God, and He can use you in amazing ways.

The bottom line is this: Jesus isn't just about giving us stuff. He is the stuff. He's the Bread of Life, the one who truly satisfies. And now, He's inviting us to share that Bread with others. Are you ready to be available, to offer what you have - even if it doesn't seem like much - and see what God can do with it?



Next Steps



- This week, identify one area of your life that feels "overpacked" - it could be your schedule, your possessions, or even your mental space. Choose one thing to let go of or simplify and be more available to God and others.
- Reflect on something you've felt God nudging you to do, but you've been hesitant. Take one concrete step towards that calling. It might be having a conversation, volunteering, or learning a new skill.