



Do You See What I See? | Ronnie Johnson | 5.17.20
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you could write a book, what genre would you write it in? Mystery? Thriller? Romance? Historical fiction? Non-fiction?

SHARE

Welcome to another week of Take-Home Church. As we continue to learn how to be the church in the middle of this pandemic, take a few minutes to check in with your Group. Our circumstances may not be ideal, but that doesn't mean we stop living life in community. So, before we go any further, take some time to talk with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

What is one word you would use to describe how you are currently feeling? Why did you pick that word?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What is the best thing that happened to you this week?

GROW

Read John 6:1-13

What is your initial reaction to this story?

Who do you resonate with the most in this story?

The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 is a story about needs. A large crowd follows Jesus to a desolate place, and before long, they are hungry. Since large crowds and hunger don't mix well, Jesus wisely decides they need to do something. But they are stuck because it is a massive crowd and they are a long way away from any resources.

This pandemic has left a lot of us feeling stuck, worried, and unsure about the future. Many of us have been forced to face the reality that we don't know what our next step is. Although this can be a scary moment, it is also an opportunity to allow God to work in our lives.

The disciples are afraid to trust Jesus with this predicament, but when they do, Jesus performs a miracle. He takes the little bit that they do have, five loaves of bread and two fish, and multiplies it. When the disciples begin passing out the food, they eventually realize they have more than enough.

The truth is until we learn to trust God, we will never feel like we have enough. Even when times are good, we will still feel like we are missing something. As Ronnie reminded us this week, "if you measure what you have against your needs, you will never have enough." Even John D. Rockefeller, one of the wealthiest humans to ever live, admitted this in his own life. In an interview, he was asked how much money will be enough and replied, "just a little bit more."

However, when we learn to put our faith in Jesus, suddenly we realize that the little bit that we do have is more than enough! We'll talk more about what this story teaches us about trusting God in the next section, but first, take a few minutes to answer these questions with your Group.

What do you feel like God is teaching you during this pandemic?

Do you ever find it challenging to have faith and trust that God is going to provide?

Have you ever been in a situation where the math didn't seem to add up? If so, tell the Group about it.

MOVE

Read Proverbs 3:3-6

What do you think it means to trust in the Lord with all your heart?

Have you ever had a season or a moment where you've had to trust in God? Tell the Group about it.

How does this Proverb relate to your current situation?

When Jesus sees the great crowd coming toward them, he asks Philip an absurd question, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" (John 6:5). Philip doesn't know what to say, and we can't blame him because it would take a year's salary to feed everyone one meal. And remember, these guys are traveling around Israel with a Rabbi, so it's not like they have a bunch of extra money lying around.

The problem is, Philip is talking about a human problem while he is sitting right next to the Creator of the Universe. He's leaning on his own understanding instead of leaning on God. We've all had seasons in our lives where we have done the same thing. It's tempting to read Proverbs 3:5 as "trust in the Lord and also lean on your own understanding." But that's not what Scripture says; the invitation is to "trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding."

Trusting in God often means doing things that don't make sense in the natural because we believe the God of the supernatural is by our side!

This pandemic is presenting plenty of challenges for our world. Whether you are facing financial, relational, or mental challenges this week, remember, the God who can feed thousands of people with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish is on our side!

How does that simple adjustment in perspective change the way you see your current predicament?

Let's practice trusting God this week by completing this Take-Home Assignment.

Take-Home Assignment: TRUST

Identify one area of your life (finances, relationships, career, health, etc.) where God is calling you to trust in Him this week. Share it with the Group and brainstorm one action step you will take to practice trusting God with it.

Reflect on that area of your life every morning this week while you recite Proverbs 3:5-6 out loud three times.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

T O G O

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Proverbs 3:7-8