

3. As you discuss the importance of forming relationships and using all that you have to serve others, keep the mission challenge in mind: Discuss briefly each of these five groups of people below and what challenges they would have when facing the world.

- a) Homeless Person out on the street or in a shelter
- b) A Mother with kids without money to pay for food and heat at the same time
- c) A foster care child whose parents weren't able to care for them
- d) Seniors without any family members – living in a facility that has been in lock down for 14 months – isolated from any human connections
- e) An adult who is not able to read a street sign, a job application, a book to their child.

After discussing each of these briefly, decide on one group above that all of you feel more passionate about. There's no right or wrong answer. But whichever group you pick, think about ways you could help strengthen a person or group in this situation by something you could do for them. This lent, make a decision in your small group to do something for this group of people in need. If you need help with ways you can make your plan happen, contact Julie Walker at jwalker@kirkinthehills.org. Here at the Kirk, we work with homeless shelters, help distribute food to families with food insecurities, help supply needed items to foster care kids, distribute care packages to seniors, and we're connecting people to a program to help with adult literacy.

4. Spend some time sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.



Small Groups – Sermon Notes Week of March 21, 2021

Luke 9:10-17

¹⁰ On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

¹² The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place." ¹³ But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ They did so and made them all sit down. ¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷ And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Fill in the blanks

1. Giving all that you have to _____ another person and _____ a true _____ with them is, in my opinion, what we were put on this earth to do.
2. It was the first time in my life when I formed a _____ with the people I was _____.
3. When I think about how to use my own _____ for _____, I think about how Jesus went out and _____.

4. As I have grown up, I have struggled with the concept of _____ and figuring out what exactly that means for me and how I can _____ myself from getting _____ in it.
5. My _____ has always explained how important it is to _____ to the people of the communities in which we are doing _____.
6. That there is actually enormous _____ in creating _____ relationships in places where we may _____.

General Questions:

1. What stood out to you in the sermon?
2. What is something new you didn't know before?
3. Is there a question that the sermon prompted for/in you?
4. How do you feel called to respond to the sermon?

Discussion Questions

1. Grace says in her sermon, "Jesus could look at the crowd and see what they needed - food, rest. But we are not Jesus. We cannot decide for others what they need." Name few of the times when we tried to decide for others what they needed. What happened? What was the outcome? How does this relate to "toxic voluntarism/charity"? Define the term in your own words and share your experiences regarding it.
2. This is the only miracle (other than the miracle of resurrection) that is found in all four gospels (cf. Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-15). Why do you think that is? How does this miracle capture the spirit of communion? What does this miracle say about who God is, God's kingdom, and our role in God's kingdom?

A similar miracle is found in the Old Testament (See Exodus 16 and 2 Kings 4:42-22)—Jesus' Jewish crowd would have recognized the parallel right away. In light of that, why is this miracle so important? What is it saying about who Jesus is and what he has come to do? (Hint: John 6:25-40; John 10:10)

3. Karoline Lewis writes this:

"There is a sense that this story sums up discipleship. An invitation to action and involvement. That discipleship is not just about following but participating. In this provision of food for many, the disciples witness that the promise of provision is their future.

And Jesus signals this promise with one pointed phrase, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

In other words, you do it.

In that one simple statement, Jesus is saying to his disciples, "Live already. You can't sit back and watch me do all this awesome stuff. Live it. Live life. I am counting on you. I need you."

The disciples are thinking linearly. Practically. "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." A deserted place? Where will the food come from? Late? Time to go home. We are done here. What more do you want? And come on, Jesus. These people need to fend for themselves.

Surprisingly, unexpectedly, the feeding of the five thousand gives witness to what the space between death and resurrection looks like. For the crowd. For the disciples. Maybe even for Jesus. Where there is the knowing of profound lack, but experience of provision. Where we exist in the meantime of life, but can see, albeit dimly, solutions. Where and why and when we think we can't go on, but then we do.

Therein, perhaps, is the miraculous."

Other than the actual feeding of thousands of people, what do you think are some other miracles in this story? How do you define discipleship and how are you living it out?

Beyond Questions

1. Grace talked about her relationship with Oscar and how she felt when Immigration and Customs Enforcement took him away. Do you have someone like Oscar in your life? Share and spend time praying for all who have been named.
2. Last Sunday was Youth Sunday. Pray for all of the youth at our church and all the special youth in your lives. They are going through things that no youth in the past ever had to endure—social distancing, remote learning, very different ways of celebrating their achievements and milestones, high level of anxiety and depression, etc. Please pray for them!