

Homegroup Notes (April 25, 2021)

-Pastor Todd Arnett

Sermon Series: *Conspiracies, Adversaries, & Unbelief*

Trinity Core Value: Your calling is to influence your world with Jesus

LOOKING BACK

Share a time when your plans were radically altered and it turned out to be a good thing.

Leaders: give people a time to recall a moment when the Lord used an interruption and it turned out to be His intervention for a greater purpose and blessing. Some may still be waiting to see how the Lord is using their particular situation and that's okay; don't be afraid to affirm that we might not see the results this side of heaven.

What are the joys and difficulties of preparing a large meal (think Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter) for family and friends?

Leaders: this question is aimed at getting everyone "in the sandals" of the disciples and being used by the Lord to serve food to over 5,000 men (likely 20, 25k people)! There is great joy in seeing people enjoy a good meal, laugh, take that after-meal nap, etc. The prep, cleaning, and cost can sometimes be a source of difficulty.

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

Spend a minute rereading John 20:30-31 and highlighting the purpose John wrote his gospel. What response is John hoping results from reading or hearing of Jesus' miracles?

Leaders: John states these miracles are written so people will believe in Jesus and place their faith in Him for salvation. For those who've already believed, John's gospel helps to affirm and strengthen our faith in Jesus.

Recall the four miracles we've seen Jesus perform so far in John's gospel. Which seems to be the most popular so far? The feeding of the 5,000 seems to be the most popular as they sought to take Jesus by force and make him the king

-John 2:1-11 Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding

-John 4:46-54 Jesus heals a royal official's son

-John 5:1-18 Jesus heals a paralytic

-John 6:1-15 Jesus feeds the 5,000

What does the feeding of the 5,000 reveal about both the heart and nature of Jesus (See Matthew 14:14, Mark 6:34)? **Leader: This miracle reveals both the compassion and power of Jesus; specifically, revealing He is the Son of God who can do the impossible.**

Read and meditate on Jeremiah 32:17 and 32:27 for a few minutes. What does this Old Testament prophet say about God's nature and ability to work in the impossible situations of life? **Leaders: both of these passages reveal that our God is the God of the impossible and nothing is too difficult for Him.**

How does the promise of Deuteronomy 18:15 connect to our passage in John 6:1-14? What did the crowd want to do as a result of this miracle? Did this action mean the religious leaders believed in Jesus as the Messiah? **Leaders: The people recognized Jesus fulfilling Moses' words that the LORD would send a prophet like him and they sought to make Him king as a result. Unfortunately, the religious leaders deliberately ignored this sign and chose not to believe in Jesus as Messiah.**

We're told Jesus directed His question towards Philip to "test him." According to James 1:2-4, what is the purpose and intended outcome of our faith being tested?

Leaders: The testing of our faith is meant to build and strengthen our faith, ultimately making us trust Jesus more and more as we grow and develop in Christ-likeness.

How is Jesus' miracle similar but greater than Elisha's miracle in 2 Kings 4:42-44? **Leaders: This miracle is similar in that both involved a small amount of barley bread (peasant food) being used to feed a large crowd, and them having plenty left over. It's different in the number of people being fed.**

DISCUSS TOGETHER

It's been observed that this miracle is unique in that Jesus provided for people, through people. Can you recall a time when the Lord used people to unexpectedly provide or bless you?

Leaders: This is a great opportunity to observe how Jesus is the true hero in this story but He often uses people as the conduit to bless His people. This also helps to remind us of some of the key points Pastor Todd brings up in His message:

-Jesus is often working in unexpected ways and in His divine timing

-Jesus often uses people as the conduit through which He ministers and meets the needs of others

-Jesus is keenly aware of what's going on with us, knows our needs, and knows what He's going to do even before we do

How are you handling the interruptions of life in the last year? Are there any particular interruptions you've found yourself struggling with lately? How are you seeing Jesus at work in these interruptions?

Leaders: My hope is this question will illicit some deep, burden-bearing fellowship among your group members. Many are struggling with the interruptions brought on by Covid, some are having interruptions in their relationships, professional lives, and even physical interruptions. Don't be afraid to lead by example and share what's going on in your life to set the tone. This is where true ministry and loving one-another happens. Prayerfully people will be able to see Jesus at work in these interruptions, whether it be drawing them closer to Him, strengthening their faith, forging their marriage or relationships, or causing them to patiently wait and build their character.

What life-events or tests have contributed to you increasingly trusting in Jesus more?

Leaders: God never wastes trials! I don't know about you but I love hearing from those seasoned saints whose faith has been refined in the refiner's fire and are such an example to me (and so many others) as a result.

God has given you resources (time, talents, treasure) for Him to use as a means to influence others for Jesus. Is there any particular person or area of ministry you have a passion for and are seeking to be a Jesus-influencer towards?

Leaders: Ministry isn't just for a small elite group of people but we are all called to ministry! Being a Jesus-influencer isn't just towards non-Christians but it can be ministering to fellow brothers and sister's in the Lord. As Warren Wiersbe says, "**Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.**" Guide your group to identify and share where their "sphere of ministry" is and recognize that ministry can happen anywhere, through anyone, and at any time.

Do you tend to think you don't have much to offer the Lord and struggle with giving your "little" (resource) to Him to use you? If you knew the Lord would greatly multiply the "little" resource you have by stepping out in faith and offering it to Him, what would you seek to do?

Leaders: we often think we have to have or be something great in order for the Lord to use us. This question is especially geared towards those who are afraid, apprehensive, or nervous to step out in faith and see what the Lord will do with their "little."

How is it encouraging to you to know Jesus already knows what He's going to do as you face the various tests of life?

Leaders: How encouraging to know Jesus is keenly aware of what we are going through and He already has a plan. We are called to wait patiently, trusting in Him, ever hopeful and remembering that the Lord loves us and will not forsake us. This truth about the Lord helps us in our trials and we don't have to be fearful, anxious, worried, or angry.

Is anyone walking through a seemingly impossible situation right now? Share with one another and take a moment to pray for that specific need after it's been shared.

Leaders: again, just another question aimed at helping us love and bear one another's burdens. Take a moment to pray for that specific situation after it has been shared.

PRAY TOGETHER

- For marriages in our fellowship
- For the Lord to stir people up and for them to step out in faith to serve in various ministries that have needs (check out our mini ministry fair the next two Sundays or the web if interested)
- Students to own their faith in Jesus

RESOURCES

Early in His ministry, Jesus reminded us that *"man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3) **Our Daily Bread** is a great resource to start the day and nourish your soul with the word of God and a short, practical application of God's word. Check it here or download the app: <https://odb.org/>