

## Small Group Leader Resources | March 24, 2019

Anyone leading the group this week may find additional Small Group Leader Resources at <http://www.wcchapel.org/resources-for-small-group-leaders/>

### *The Great Explorers — Jesus at Table with 5,000 – The Table Manner of Provision*

**Focus Passage:** *Luke 9:10–17* (Parallel accounts: *Matt 14:13–21*; *Mark 6:31–44*; *John 6:1–14*)

*Context:* *Luke 9:10–21*

*Other Passages Referenced:* *Exodus 16:4, 21–33*; *Exodus 25:23–30*; *Leviticus 24:5–9*; *1 Kings 18:13*; *2 Kings 4:42–44*; *1 Cor 11:17–22*;

**Sermon Recap:** When Jesus multiplies bread and fish to feed more than 5,000 people in a desolate place, His table manner of **provision** starts in desolation and ends in satisfaction. The miracle not only points back to God’s regular and relational provision for His people throughout history, but it points ahead to the new thing He is doing in Jesus Christ: to provide for ultimate restoration of the broken relationship between God and man, to move us from the desolation of living for ourselves to the satisfaction we receive through trusting Jesus as Lord.

### **Introductory Comments to Group Leaders:**

In the immediate context of Luke’s gospel, Luke is repeatedly asking and answering the question, “Who is this ...?” about Jesus. He wants His readers to know that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah (Luke 2:11). “The feeding of the five thousand was seen by the early church to prefigure the Lord’s Supper and the coming messianic banquet (cf. Luke 12:37; 13:28–29; 22:15–16, 18, 30).”<sup>1</sup> “This nature miracle, like the stilling of the storm (8:22–25), deals with the question, ‘Who is this one?’ (8:25 and 9:9).”<sup>2</sup> “This miracle was meant primarily for the disciples and would enable them to answer the question Jesus asked in Luke 9:20.”<sup>3</sup> “Like Moses, Jesus and Elisha worked miracles that were signs of God’s kingdom breaking into history, and both were ignored by all but a remnant of Israel. Still, the remnant did emerge, so their work was not totally in vain.”<sup>4</sup>

One of the main biblical points to drive home is that Jesus not only makes provision, but He Himself is the provision of God, the manna that came down from heaven, the bread of life broken for us. The receiving of the bread in the communion service is meant to show that the participants have received Jesus as God’s provided Savior and King who forgives sin and delivers from desolation to true satisfaction because He satisfied God’s righteous requirements on our behalf.

A good application emphasis would be to give some time on question 2 in the Took section: “Are you satisfied? If not, what do think it would take to bring you satisfaction?” Be ready to gently and lovingly call attention to the fact that anything we are looking to satisfy us apart from Jesus, can easily become (or maybe already is) an idol that we are looking to in God’s place to provide us what only God can.

### **Background Helps**

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<sup>1</sup> Robert H. Stein, *Luke*, vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 273–274.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 271–272.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 272.

<sup>4</sup> Paul R. House, *1, 2 Kings*, vol. 8, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 269.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 272.

<sup>4</sup> Paul R. House, *1, 2 Kings*, vol. 8, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 269.

**Herod the Tetrarch** – The son of Herod the Great who had children under two years old killed in Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus as a child. ‘Herod the tetrarch’ (Lk. 3:19, *etc.*), who bore the distinctive name of Antipas. He was Herod’s younger son by Malthace, and inherited the Galilean and Peraean portions of his father’s kingdom. In the Gospels he is conspicuous chiefly for his part in the imprisonment and execution of John the Baptist (Mk. 6:14–28) and for his brief encounter with Jesus when the latter was sent to him by Pilate for judgment (Lk. 23:7ff.)<sup>5</sup>

**Hook:** *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

*What are some good questions to ask around the dinner table?*

**Look—Observing and Interpreting:**

**READ Luke 9:10–17;**

1. From what or from where were Jesus’ disciples returning in Luke 9:10?
2. In the immediate context, what is the big question Luke is trying to answer for his readers? (Read Luke 9:9 and Luke 9:18–20).
3. Reflecting on the three clues Luke gives in his account of the feeding of the 5,000—a desolate place, 12 baskets, and 50 each—what connections or parallels can you make between Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000 and events from the Old Testament? (It may help to read Exodus 16:4, 31–33; Leviticus 24:5–9; 1Kings 18:4; 2 Kings 4:42–44.)
4. What connections or parallels can you make between the feeding of the 5,000 with “the new thing that Jesus is doing” and other New Testament passages? (It may help to read Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23–32.)

**Illustrations:**

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of [www.wcchapel.org](http://www.wcchapel.org)

**Took:** *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. Can you share how you see the message applying to your life?
2. Are you satisfied in your life? If not, what do think it would take to bring you satisfaction?
3. Do you make a distinction between being *satisfied* and being *complacent*?
4. How have you asked and answered the question, “Who is Jesus”?
5. What might you need to do to more consistently gather at the table with your family, your small group, and the church, which is the “household of God?” What concrete step will you commit to in the coming week to make that happen?
6. What adjustments might be needed for you to improve your listening, understanding, and connecting relationally when you do eat together at table with others? Are you willing to ask this question to the people

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<sup>5</sup> F. F. Bruce, “[Herod](#),” ed. D. R. W. Wood et al., *New Bible Dictionary* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 469–472.

with whom you most frequently eat: “Do I do anything that leads you to feel I’m not listening or understanding you?”

**Prayer:** Please spend time praying for one another.

**What we hope members glean from the passage.**

1. Jesus had sent them out to preach about the kingdom of God, to heal diseases, and to cast out demons.
2. The big question is “Who is Jesus?” ... John the Baptist essentially asks the question in Luke 7:19 ... The Pharisees ask it after Jesus declares the sinful woman who washed his feet forgiven in Luke 7:49 ... The disciples ask it after He calms the storm in 8:25 ... Herod asks it in 9:9 ... Jesus asks the disciples about who the crowds think He is in Luke 9:18 and then asks Peter in Luke 9:20.
3. Manna in the dessert (desolate place), the show bread in the tabernacle, Elijah dividing the prophets into groups of 50, the bread multiplied through Elisha in 2 Kings 4.
4. Jesus is showing God’s provision of forgiveness and the Kingdom of God, and that He is ultimately that provision—the provider of salvation. His provision is graphically depicted in the Lord’s Supper.