

Small Group Questions for the Week of March 1, 2015

The following questions are taken from the book entitled John: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups by N.T. Wright. Please do not feel compelled to ask every question that is listed below. You know your group better than the person writing the questions. Ask the questions that are best for your group, and questions that you yourself are comfortable answering.

1. Read John 6:1-15. John 5 ends with Jesus saying Moses was writing about him. In these opening passages of John 6, we will see two examples of that.

What does Jesus suggest that he and his disciples need to do for the great crowd that has gathered around them (v. 5)?

2. Why might this have sounded a bit crazy to his disciples?
3. Philip doesn't know what to do. Andrew doesn't either, but he brings the boy with his bread and fish to Jesus' attention. The point is obvious, but we perhaps need to be reminded of it: so often we ourselves have no idea what to do, but the starting point is always to bring what is there to the attention of Jesus. You can never tell what he's going to do with it, though part of the Christian faith is the expectation that he will do something we hadn't thought of – something new and creative.

How might Andrew have felt when he brought the boy and his meager lunch to the attention of Jesus?

4. Are there things in your life – things that perhaps you consider to be of little value – that you might bring to Jesus, expecting that he could do something new and creative and wonderful with them?
5. God fed the children of Israel, during their wilderness wanderings, with “bread from heaven.” The story is told in Exodus 16, where the “manna” is provided by God through Moses because the people are grumbling and complaining.

What similarities and differences are there between this story from Exodus and John's story of Jesus feeding the five thousand?

6. The five thousand being fed by Jesus knew about Moses and quickly make the jump from Jesus being a “prophet” to “Messiah”; in other words, to “king.” How does the reaction of the crowds (v. 15) show that they don't really understand what these terms mean for Jesus?

7. In what ways are we guilty of this today – that is, how do we also sometimes try to “seize” Jesus and make him fit into our boxes instead of letting him have his say?