



“Leftovers”

Fall Life Groups | Week #9

WELCOME & ICEBREAKER

Welcome to Week #9 of Circle Groups! Those new to the group, please introduce yourself and let us know how you came to join the group.

Icebreaker: Now that we’ve begun the holiday season, let’s talk leftovers! In general, what is your standard timeframe to keep leftovers in your refrigerator? If you HAD to eat leftovers, what would you most enjoy? Which foods would you prefer to “throw out” rather than eating the next day?

OPEN IN PRAYER & PLAY VIDEO

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This weekend’s sermon, “Leftovers” touched on Jesus’ miracle of feeding the 5,000 in John 6. In this passage, multitudes were fed, and there were LEFTOVERS! This miracle points to the power of both obedience and sacrifice. The crowd was eager to hear a message from Jesus, and the boy who supplied the fish and loaves was obedient when a need arose. Because of the joint faith of the crowd (to assemble), the disciples (to obey), as well as the young boy (to sacrifice), a miracle occurred. Let’s dive into God’s word and this week’s discussion so that we can uncover the truths found in this text. Let’s get started!

SCRIPTURES

John 6:1-13

Matt. 5:6, Matt. 6:31-33, Zechariah 4:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The Crowd: According to our key scripture (John 6), there was a crowd of 5,000 men (not including women and children) who travelled to listen to Jesus ... that’s a lot of people! Imagine the level of faith needed to travel hundreds of miles to hear a person speak without making any arrangements. There were no hotels to book, no inns to rent, no car services to take and certainly no quick service restaurants to drive through in case they got hungry. For all intents and purposes, those who travelled to hear Jesus preach that day, were so desperate, that they left the comfort of their own homelands because normal was just not enough. **Read Matt. 5:6. How does the crowd’s demonstration of this verse challenge you? When was the last time you were THAT DESPERATE to get into the Lord’s presence?**
- The Disciples: The level of desire and determination of the crowd should be commended. Their display of desire caused the disciples to panic a bit. As they counted the people, the disciples became so focused on what they perceived as lack (We do not have enough to

feed the people) that they missed the fact that the miracle-maker, the ultimate provider was in their midst. **Have you ever been guilty of focusing on your lack, rather than on God's ability to provide for your need? Read Matt. 6:31-33. According to this verse, what is the biblical order for receiving provision for our needs?**

- The Boy: The young man in this story played a key role in making a miracle happen for others. Think about it, if he had decided to withhold what he had, possibly saving his lunch for himself, he would have had what he needed (lunch), but his lunch would have been beneficial to only him. Others may have walked away due to hunger or exhaustion. More than that, it is possible that the miracle may not have ever occurred, because the need may not have arisen. However, when faced with the opportunity to sacrifice, the young man took it, and others were blessed. **How does this verse challenge modern society's desire to look out for "number one?" Read Zechariah 4:10. What have you considered meager beginnings in your life? What encouragement can you glean from this story about Jesus' ability to multiply even the smallest of our sacrifices for Him?**
- The Leftovers: In Jesus' hands, even the smallest sacrifice can produce leftovers. What may seem to be insignificant in our eyes can become a miracle for others! Our obedience and sacrifices yield blessings for ourselves as well as others, but we must be careful to give the Lord our best, not OUR LEFTOVERS. **Let's get honest and identify the areas in which we have given "less than our best." In the categories of time, talent or treasure have you been bringing leftovers to the Lord? Considering Matt. 6:33, how might you realign your priorities to come into alignment with the truth of God's word?**

CONCLUSION

Realigning our priorities to God's truth is never glamorous. It requires obedience, sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Perhaps, you feel as though your life is in shambles and that things are too far gone for God to use you. You may even feel that the little you have could never make a difference to God. Take heart, the Lord can use ANYTHING and ANYONE to bring Himself glory. What you have been through does not disqualify you from being used by God. Just like the boy who sacrificed his lunch, your life, and your sacrifice – no matter how small - can become a miracle for someone else. What you have been through will not be wasted, and whatever is left over, is evidence that God has a purpose for your life.

This Week's Challenge: Don't waste your leftovers...share them with others! This week we will write down our testimonies and intentionally share how God can make a miracle from the fragments of our past. Use this template as an easy-to-follow format:

- Before Jesus my life was
- My Introduction to Christ
- Since Christ my life has been



REMINDERS:

- **Pursuit Night:** Mark your calendar for next Wednesday, December 5th for December Pursuit Night. Groups will not be meeting next week, so be sure to grab your Circle Squad and make your way to service so that we can pursue God together!
- **Youth & Young Adults:** Relentless Fire (Youth) and Relentless Move (Young Adults), save the date for upcoming events in December. Check out the Calendar of Events for more!
- **Bible Challenge:** What better way to put feet to our faith than developing the habit of reading the bible daily? Jump in anytime on the Relentless App or Online!
- **Life Group Challenge:** After completing the Life Group Challenge, be prepared to share your testimony with others. Use the template on Page 3 to help you format your story.

LEADER REMINDERS:

- **Groups & Church Events - Don't forget to remind your group about upcoming Church Events. Should events targeted toward your group happen this week, opt to meet there, instead of a traditional life group meeting.**
- **Holiday Service Project- Still looking for ideas for this season's service project? Try donating food to the Outreach Pantry, or collectively donating to the Toy & Clothing drive. See details in your leader email!**
- **Attendance is due Monday at 12 noon! – Don't forget to take attendance. We want to know how your group is growing and developing. Feel free to post pictures and testimonies in the leader Facebook Group!**



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Testimony Exercise | Week #9

Before Jesus my life was... (Struggles, Hardships, Things drawing me away from Christ)

My introduction to Christ... (The environment, people, situations that lead to my decision to receive Christ)

Since Jesus my life has been... (Things I have learned and ways that I have grown, How my life has been changed)

Romans 1:16 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.^[a]

Revelation 12:11 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.

And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.