



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Feb 22, 2026 - Pastor Scott Allen

The Feast in the Wilderness (Matthew 14:13–21)

Summary This week, Pastor Scott explored the heart of Jesus through the miraculous feeding of the 5,000. We learned that Jesus doesn't just observe our needs from a distance; He meets us exactly where we are with profound compassion. The sermon highlighted a powerful truth: We often feel like we have nothing to offer, but "nothing" becomes "something" the moment we bring it to Jesus. Our inadequacy is not a barrier to Jesus; it is the very place where His provision begins.

Discussion Starter

- Was there anything in this week's sermon that was particularly convicting or particularly encouraging to you? Why?
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Reflection Questions

- A central theme of this sermon was the act of offering what we have and depending on God's power to provide and sustain us. In what areas of your life, whether at work, with your family, or in your leadership, are you most tempted to rely on your own resources instead of trusting in His sufficiency?
 - How does Jesus's choice to extend compassion while grieving John the Baptist challenge your own willingness to look beyond your "season of withdrawal" to see the needs of others through His eyes?
 - Which of the three responses—**pushing it away**, **paralysis**, or **powering through**—most often characterizes your reaction to overwhelming situations, and what does that reveal about your current level of trust in God's provision?
 - How does the contrast between Herod's banquet of pride and Jesus's feast of compassion change your approach to God—do you come to Him fearing what He might take, or trusting in what He will provide?
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Application Questions

- Jesus met the 5,000 with profound compassion. Who in your immediate circle (work, family, neighborhood) is currently in a "place of lack" where you can meet them with Jesus's heart this week?
- Jesus gave thanks for the bread *before* it multiplied. This week, what is one "not enough" situation in your life that you can proactively thank God for, trusting that He is already working in the lack?
- Jesus didn't just meet the need; He provided an abundance (12 baskets left over). Looking back at a past "desert season" in your life, what was the "leftover" lesson or strength God gave you that you can use to encourage someone else today?
- Why is it so difficult for us to actually "bring our nothing to Jesus"?
- Finish this sentence for the group: *"The 'nothing' I am handing over to Jesus this week is _____, and I will stop trying to 'power through' it by _____."*
- How can the group hold you accountable to trust His provision rather than your own strength?

(Guide written by: Jonathan Hernandez)

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—*if* group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"