

Phase 2 Day 1

Scripture: Mark 6:7-13, 30-45, 8:1-10

How Many Loaves Do You Have?



*Read today's scriptures:

*So are you ready for Phase 2? Are you ready to continue to move beyond the boundaries that have been created by this world to stop your family from taking the time that God intended for you to take in hopes of growing stronger? The real question that begins Phase 2 is what are you willing to give? I know that we take our time daily to give to God, but my question is do we give out of our fullness and our best, or do we give out of the leftovers and the reserves. Today we begin the next 60-day journey and I am asking you to think of your family first when it comes to giving God the best. You will be asked to be more hands-on and take time to study and answer questions. Don't take this lightly. Give it your full attention and take hold of EVERYTHING that you can to help connect your family back to being the family unit God created it to be. FIGHT LIKE IT'S YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY. GIVE IT ALL YOU HAVE... WELCOME TO PHASE 2.

The following questions are for everyone who follows Christ. Whether 5 or 75, we all frequently in need to recommit ourselves and our resources to him. Dig deep and journal about them. Connect with others. Help each other process and pray through the questions and challenges. After you've arrived at some conclusions, continue praying for and supporting each other.

*What tempts you to think that you don't have what it takes to accomplish God's mission for your family?

*What do you wish you could do for God and others, but are afraid to do?

*What thoughts and emotions do you wrestle with?

*How many loaves (gifts/talents) do you have? How might God honor your small-seeming gift?

*What is he asking you to do for Him as it related to your family this week? Why will this be of value?

*What support do you need from others this week? What do they need from you?

As we start phase 2, just know that we are really asking you to not just think about what you are able to get from this daily time to focus on your family, but what are you willing to give. We have been creating within you, opportunities to connect with your family. We will continue to equip you over the days and months, but we will also ask you to think outside the box and begin taking ownership of the spiritual direction and leadership of your family. This is exactly what God intended because God gave you your children and believed so much in you that he gave you these loaves, your children as a blessing and opportunity to help direct and mold their lives. It's never going to be easy, but understand, when we come with our hands open in humility and obedience, God is able to take our gifts and use them to change the world. So it was with the loaves and fishes... so will it be with your child/children. God is ready to do so much with just a test of obedience from us.

Prayer:

Lord, when I let myself dream, I get really pumped about all the things I'd like to do for you, and for people. For example...(Fill in the Blank)... But I'm usually afraid I don't have what it takes. I hear what you want from me, and I give up before I start. To be honest, I'm afraid you're unrealistic—that you want me to give what I don't even have. But You promise that that's not true. You just want what I have...everything I have. And as small as that seems to me, here it is. Here I am. As an act of faith in you this week I will (Fill in the blank with one simple, stretching act of obedience)... I pray these things, too, for my family, that they would courageously give you everything, and that you would provide confidence in your complete sufficiency through Him. AMEN

Memory verse: Actually an old Hymn:

Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee. Frances Ridley Havergal

Think about these questions, talk with God, and journal about them. When you meet with your family, share your thoughts and feelings honestly. Pray together for true knowledge of Jesus, no matter how old you are, and do what you can to help each other find them.

*What's the difference between knowing Jesus and knowing about Jesus?

*What's the difference between knowing Jesus and doing the good things He says to do?

*If someone asked you how to start a relationship with Jesus, what would you say?

*Do you know the Son of Man? You can pray to Him now, using the following prayer or any words that convey the same ideas. Then you'll have His presence in you, helping you live the life you've always really wanted.

Jesus, I've done wrong things, and I don't deserve forgiveness or heaven. Thank you for dying for me. I accept your forgiveness, your free gift of eternal life. Change me inside, and help me live for you. Thank you for this miracle in me. Now do miracles through me. And if you know Jesus... Lord, thank you for being in my life. Never let me take you for granted. Pull me and my family closer to you. Let us actually feel like we're starving when we neglect you, so we'll seek you with all our hearts. Live through us and change our world. AMEN

Memory Verse:

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-24

Phase 2 Day 4

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33, Esther 2-4, 5:1-3, 6-8

Joshua 1:7-9

Why Did You Doubt?



*Read today's scriptures:

One of the biggest struggles in this journey truly is the doubt that many of us have as it surrounds our lives. We continue to doubt that we are smart enough or good enough or can even fully understand who our students are and the decisions we need to make to equip them or prepare them for life. It's doubt. We stare at it every day when we look in the mirror, and continue to question everything when our worlds seem to be collapsing in around us. However, sometimes doubt can be a powerful source that helps to lead us out of our comfort zones. As I watch my children continue to grow up right before my eyes, sometimes the doubt that is in their lives causes them to have to reach out and depend only on Jesus to make it to the next step of their faith journey. When we cannot even see the light at the end of the tunnel, we continue to question if God really knows what is happening in the midst of the uncertainty and chaos that we may be right in the middle of right now. Breathe, God knows where you are and trust me, has already walked a mile or more ahead of you to prepare for your journey of full dependence on Him and not in this world. Today as you walk in your faith journey, the scriptures and the questions are going to challenge you to think about where you are in this so called life. Yesterday you were challenged to spend time talking to your family about faith.. well it's just as powerful to sit down and help them see and understand our journeys through doubt and how the struggle is real. How we live our lives in the presence of God in hopes of placing all of our doubts and fears at the foot of the cross and taking a step out of the proverbial boat by faith. SO spend some time today discerning your biggest doubts and fears and talk about how through those moments, God was able to direct your path. Even when you may have not realized it in the immediate moment, but you were able to see His prevenient grace when you looked back with 20/20 vision to see how God was there every step of the way.

Another day, a BIGGER challenge. Don't face it alone. Connect with your family soon, and share encouragement, accountability, and prayers. Connect with God about these questions and journal your responses.

*Describe the doubt that makes it hard for you to trust and obey God.

*What helps you beat it? What makes it worse?

*How do you need people? What can we do for you?

*Don't wait for fear to disappear. Fear isn't the opposite of faith. Disobedience is. What step will you take to show faith in spite of fear this week?

Lord, it's hard to admit that I doubt you. I do. (Share your doubts). Thanks for understanding. And thanks for not letting me stay stuck. Give me the will to obey, no matter how I feel. And when we've won a victory, let me feel your smile. I know that my family are also feeling doubts about (fill in the blank).. Please give them courage to overcome too. AMEN

Memory Verse:

Lord if it is you, Peter replied, tell me to come to you on the water. Come, he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and , beginning to sink, cried out, Lord, save me!.Matthew 14:28-30

Phase 2 Day 5

Scripture: John 14:1-18, Acts 4:13, John 15:1-17,
Matthew 25:31-46



Don't You Know Me Now?

*Read today's scriptures:

So today we are working on finishing our first week of Phase 2. The struggle is still the shift from being equipped by someone to taking opportunities to self-reflect and step out on faith. The personal reflection of Christ in your faith is something that is huge. It's not easy because so many times we ask the question of whether or not we feel qualified to answer a deep theological question or do we need to go the pastor for answers. That is the cool part.. you can do both. A huge step in one's growth process is being able to take the opportunity to try and discern what God is speaking to you. Funny thing is, what God may be saying to you in one scripture, God can be saying something totally different to someone else when they read the same scripture. That's the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the way in which God starts to work with our inmost thoughts and desires.

When God knit us together, God was preparing for the moment when we would once again invite Him back into His creation to stake claim over our lives. In the daily moments that we pause and take time to get to know God, do you ever ask yourself the question, Don't you know me now? As God has probably asked that question so many times looking into our lives, I wonder how many times we ask that question of God. The answer is YES. Yes God knows us because God is part of us. Yes, God knows our thoughts, actions, and even the days of our lives. As you think through that for a second, think about this as well. How long have you been going to church or how long have you known or heard "about" God? See that's a different question but with HUGE Kingdom potential. See many of our students have truly heard and know "about" God, but don't fully "KNOW" God. What's the difference. Well I know of the Grand Canyon because I have read about it in geography and history. I have seen pictures, but to truly say that I "know" or have had the ability to see the Grand Canyon with my own eyes is something I have not fully experienced. The same is true with God. Many people have heard stories and seen images and heard and at some point read the Bible, but until they fully know God for themselves, it's just something they "know of" or "know about" and not something they are intimately attached to because of a personal experience.

So today that is what I am asking you to do. Spend a little time really getting to know and getting intimate with God. And hopefully you can share that experience with your family. Because all of our families are at different stages of knowing God. So it's ok if we tell our stories to help them out a little. As you dig into and journal about these questions, picture Jesus there talking with you. Absorb the love, power, and truth of His presence. Renew your commitment to seek Him each day. Share your commitment with your family, and prayerfully support each other.

*What are some ways you've seen and come to know Jesus personally in your time with Him this week?

*What differences has this vision of Him made in your attitudes and way of living?

*In what ways do you need to open your eyes to Jesus, take a fresh look at Him, revive your relationship with Him?

*What's one step you'll take now to see and know Jesus better?

Prayer:

Jesus, I want to see You. I want the fulfillment of a deep friendship with the God of everything, the central character of all human history. You. I know I have disappointed You at times, neglecting You, running from You, pretending to be Your friend when I've been more like a stranger to You. I'm sorry. Give me hunger to know you through your Word and prayer. And give me awareness to see Your hand and heart in people and events around me. I pray for the same hunger and sensitivity in my family. AMEN

Memory Verse:

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

Phase 2 Day 6

Scripture: John 6:66-71, Psalm 139, Matthew 10:29-31, Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31



Haven't I Handpicked You?

*Read today's scriptures:

Journal about these questions, continually asking your father to let you see yourself through his eyes. When you connect with your family, be God's eyes and voice of love for them, too. Age is not an issue. Everyone needs reassurance.

*What do you honestly believe about your worth to God and your special design for his mission? What are you told is true about you, but have a hard time believing?

*What can you do to become more convinced of your value to God?

*What can you do to become more convinced that Jesus wants you on His team, that He has an important job for you to do?

*For today, don't work hard at figuring out what your life assignment is. Focus on simply grasping the truth of your value and purpose?

Lord, forgive me for the times I insult You, believing You didn't make me right. Or doubting the power of Your grace to clean me up. Or making too little of Your amazing love for me. I go back and forth between thinking too much of myself and thinking too little. Thank You for telling me exactly how You think and feel about me, not leaving me in the dark. Help me believe it. Let it fuel my confident obedience. Please also show my family more of Your love and Your purpose for them. How can I help You answer this prayer in their lives? AMEN

For he chose us, in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. Ephesians 1:4

Phase 2 Day 7

Scripture: John 14:1-6, 1 Peter 2:9-17, Mark 8:34-38

What Good To Gain The Whole World and Lose Your Soul?



*Read today's scriptures:

As you think and journal about these questions, call Home. Talk to Your Father about them. And connect with your homesick brothers and sisters, both older and younger. Talk and pray about this short earthly journey and the long eternity to follow.

*What are the things that tempt you to think of this world as home?

*Even with all the truly good things in this life, why is it dangerous to get too cozy down here?

*What are the possible risks of living as a child of Heaven? Why are they worthwhile?

*What's one new way you need to plug into God's family, your home away from home?

*What is something on earth that your Father might be asking you to let go of, in order to stand up for Him?

Lord, thanks for all the gifts You've given me on earth, but help me get in touch with the unbelievably greater gifts in heaven—especially the ones I can have right now. You are the greatest Gift of them all. To be honest I think I'm too attached to (fill in the blank). I've valued it more highly than you. Help me put things in the right order, you on top. And if that means giving up something, I will. Give me the strength to do the right thing. I pray the same for my family. Help us to relate with each other as your family, helping each other through the earthly journey. AMEN

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Phase 2 Day 13

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33, Luke 6:43-49, Matthew 10

Who Doesn't First Figure the Cost?



*Read today's scriptures:

Talk, but no walk? That's not a disciple. "Gain" without ever any pain? Not a disciple. Squeaking by with minimum investment of self? No dice. Hand it all over to Jesus—everything you are, everything you have. That's a disciple. Once you've done it, you'll never want to live any other way.

If you take these questions seriously, the outcome could be expensive. And the returns will be beyond your dreams. Journal thoughtfully and prayerfully, and interact with an open heart with your family, young and old.

*What, if anything, keeps you from selling out to God? Something "better"? Fear of pain or loss? Be specific.

*Brainstorm several benefits of living for God. Consider how much each of them really means.

*Selling out is risky. How does God promise to reimburse, protect, and strengthen you? *Write your gift list to God. What does "everything" include in your life?

*How will you go about giving Him His first gift from your list?

(GULP) Everything Lord? And carry a cross to my own execution? This is really tough. The only reason I'm considering it is because of You. Selling out doesn't make total sense to me. But Your steady love, Your flawless wisdom, Your absolute power—these are starting to make sense. And the huge cost is starting to look smaller in comparison to You. I want to be Your disciple. Give me desire to accept the cost. I want to learn to pay it gladly. Show me Your hand at work. Give me reassurance and confidence. And do the same for my family.. Show us how to help each other stay sold out for You. AMEN

33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. **34** "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? **35** It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." Luke 14:33-35

Phase 2 Day 14

Scripture: John 5:1-18, John 3:19-21, 1 Corinthians 1:25-31
1 Thessalonians 5:14



Do You Want to Get Well? *Read today's scriptures:

We've all been wounded in life. Spiritually, emotionally, physically. At our own hand, by others, and by life's impersonal accidents. God offers healing....restoration to the fully functioning Christ-follower you were always meant to be. But healing sometimes means frightening change, hard work, and pain. It's okay to be afraid, but go ahead...put yourself in the Doctor's care. You can trust Him.

As you wrestle with these questions, be especially honest. With God...with your family...with yourself. Use your journal as a sounding board. Use your family as a source of prayer and encouragement. And be the same for them.

*A huge number of people, young and old, have emotional and spiritual illnesses and wounds inside. Pain from abuse, rejection, or neglect. Horrible self-images. Destructive habits and addictions. Depression... A lot of people prefer to stay sick. Why? What good do they think they're getting out of their condition?

*Do you know someone who doesn't want to get well? Don't mention names. How might Jesus try talking them into accepting healing?

*How about you? Are you resisting God's healing in some way? Do you know why?

*How might your life be different if you let Him make you well?

*What specific steps would lead to your healing? Consider for example prayer, confessions, accountability, learning God's truth, getting counseling, or rehab. What do you want to do first?

Lord You've taken care of me in so many ways. (Thank Him for specifics). But I've held back some of my favorite wounds and sicknesses from Your healing touch. I don't completely understand my weird attachment to them. But here they are. (Open them up to Him). I do want to be well. Completely well. Give me patience with the time it takes. Give me courage for the obedience it takes. Give me humility to be vulnerable and honest. And give me confidence that you still love me, no matter what I dig up inside. Fix me, so I can know You and serve You better. Please help my family in their times of struggle as well. AMEN

14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1

Thessalonians 5:14

Phase 2 Day 15

Scripture: Read Matthew 26:36-56, John 12:23-33,
Job 1:13-22, 2:9-10, Psalms 42-43



Should I Beg For Escape?

*Read today's scriptures:

When life knocks you down, take God's sympathetic hand and let Him help you up. When you can't get up, He lies down and hurts with you; feel His comfort. And when you think your nightmare is eternal, scream to God and hang onto Him; He'll bring morning light in time. Today's questions might stir some frightening memories or worries for you, whether you're young or old. Give yourself a break if you need it. And keep in close touch with someone you trust. (Watch for others, also, who might need to lean on you).

*Describe a time when you've wished desperately that God, or someone, would rescue You from Your pain. (Maybe right now.) How can both honesty about your pain and genuine faith in God work together in those times?

*How long did it take you to heal, if you ever did? What helped? What didn't?

*No one can escape fear and grief when enduring a loss. But brainstorm some ways you can prepare during the easier seasons of life, so you'll hang onto both God and hope when you have to ride out the hard times.

*What's one step you will take this week to prepare for a future crisis, or make it through one right now?

Lord, when the bottom drops out and I'm in freefall, nothing makes sense. Help me connect closer with you every day, so that in those times at least You make sense to me. Teach me to hang onto You no matter what. Teach me to be completely honest with You. You can handle even my most harsh and despairing thoughts. (If you need to, share your honest thoughts and feelings now.) Come to me also with silent comfort. (If you're hurting now, you don't have to use words. Just know His presence for a while. Take as long as you need.) I know, lord, that my family are hurting and scared. Let them feel Your comfort. AMEN

27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." John 12:27-28