

Small Group Material

Transforming Miracles 4 - Unexpected Provision John 6.5-14

Welcome (10 mins) Do you prefer to socialise in large groups, have a dinner for 4 or spend a quiet evening with a friend? Why?

Worship (10 mins) Spend a few minutes consciously worshipping in Jesus' presence as you listen to this beautiful rendition of the hymn. Put the words (see below) in the chat so everyone can follow. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds (John Newton) sung by Chris Bowater <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDFtgQKBqv4> What does Jesus mean to you? Worship Jesus together.

Word (30-40 mins) Read John 6.1 - 15

This story, recorded in all four gospels, is the only account which includes Philip and Andrew's conversation. They raise the issue of such small quantities of fish and bread with Jesus, which is an important reminder 'that we should always take our problems and the little we have to Jesus first' (Tom Wright).

Discovery questions (move through these quickly!)

Why did the crowd follow Jesus v2? What did they think about him?

What do you think is the significance of including v4 (that the Jewish feast of Passover was near)?

What was the 'test' that Jesus was using on Philip, v5?

What do Philip and Andrew's responses tell you about them, v6-9? Are they different?

Why was there more food after feeding them than before?

How would the nearness of the Passover feast (when Jews came from all over to Jerusalem) fuel the desires of the people, v14-15?

What does Jesus' response in v15 tell us about his idea of kingship

For discussion and reflection

1. v.14, John calls this event a 'miraculous sign. What is it a 'sign' of? (Leader: Signs are moments 'when heaven is opened, when the transforming power of God bursts into the world' Tom Wright.)
2. How much are you like Philip, failing to remember something about Jesus when you face a difficult situation?
3. When has God stretched your limited resources (physically or emotionally) far beyond what you could have imagined? Are there any ways in which you need to trust him to do so now?

Witness (15 mins)

'At Home with...' Every so often take to time to ask someone in your group to share more deeply about their life - at home, at work, in the community. What are their joys, responsibilities and challenges. Ask someone in advance rather than springing on them. Then pray for them.

Share Laurence Singlehurst's concept of the **'Secret Pastor'** (those who you are particularly concerned for, and pastor without them being aware!!) with the group.

Can you pray for the **Developing (new) leaders for our Small Groups course?** Starting shortly!! We've got a group of great people who have said 'yes' to my invitation.

- It would be fantastic to have a few more.
- Guidance as we put the course together.
- For John Coyne, Helen Perris and I (Ursula) as we lead it.
- The technology to be sorted!

See below for words of the hymn...

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

Dear name, the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place,
My never failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest breath.
But, when I see you as you are
I'll praise you as I ought.

I would your boundless love proclaim
with every fleeting breath
So may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.