

Home Group Leader's notes
More Than a Meal
Week of March 4, 2018

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Our focus this week is on being people who care for others the way Jesus cared.*

SHARE IT

How do you remember life's important lessons? Keep record? Tell stories?

The giant boulder near Trinity's west entrance commemorates something that we trusted God to do. Any guesses what that might be? (Your leader has the answer)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *We called the boulder an "ebenezer" which means a "rock of help." (First used in the Bible by Samuel to commemorate God's help in something.) For us, we were thankful that with God's help, we were able to complete the building of our campus. After the rock was first put in place (by a large crane), hundreds of people who entrusted God with their resources put their names on the rock.*

STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus did many amazing things testified to by thousands. Read the story of one miracle in Luke 9:1-17. What ministry did Jesus send the Twelve to do? What were the results? (1-6)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The 12 were to copying the ministry of Jesus. His intent was to equip them to continue His ministry after His departure. The results were amazing: people were learning to believe in Jesus, were healed, and rid of demons. The 12 were thrilled.*

What happened that made these very intense days in Jesus' and the disciples' lives? How might they have been feeling? (7-10)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Jesus' cousin (John) had been murdered, the 12 just returned from an exciting but exhausting ministry trip, thousands of people were following them when they thought they were going away by themselves. So we have mix of exhaustion, mourning, excitement, and crowds. In addition, it was growing late in the day.*

How does Jesus respond to the needs? The Twelve? (11-17)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Jesus had compassion on the crowds. The 12 were being logical and just wanted them to go home. Jesus used this as an opportunity to reveal His identity and point to the glory of God AND to reveal something to the 12 that they needed in their lives.*

What do Jesus' actions say about His identity and character?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This miracle resulted in people wanting Jesus to become their king. Some probably connected this with God providing manna in the desert. Therefore some saw this as a revelation of Jesus as the Messiah.*

In this encounter, they saw several things: His miraculous works, His compassion, His care, and His leadership.

What impressions might this whole experience make on the Twelve?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The 12 were exhausted and overwhelmed. They had been through so much and knew that Jesus had as well (including the loss of his cousin). Although they did not know Jesus' plans, they trusted in His commands to seat the people and be ready for something. The twelve grew in their faith in Jesus as He fed thousands from five loaves and two fishes.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How does Jesus' example of care impact you?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Jesus gave Himself away even though He was exhausted and mourning. This reminds me that my trust must be in God and not in my own strength or feelings. Often, God has reminded me that though I am weak, He is strong.*

How can we communicate Jesus' care to the people in our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This should be a lead question for discussion. Jesus didn't only meet needs – He pointed to the goodness and care of God. The question is about "HOW" was show His care.*

Jesus taught us to live by faith TOGETHER. How can WE recognize and remember the times when Jesus shows care (restores, heals, provides, leads, etc.)? How might this shape how we respond to needs and the people in our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Because of our individualism, we often think of doing this alone. Jesus didn't! He repeatedly taught us that we are to do life and ministry together. This should tell us that we need to invite one another into opportunities to care for the people in our world. Imagine what that would look like.*

When we encounter a needy situation, what is our part and what is God's? What examples and promises has He made?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *God has given us the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, abilities, resources, and one another. God does the supernatural by working through us to meet needs.*

Love and grace to you,
Steve