



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK TEN

This week, we will look at the miracle of the feeding of 5,000. The crowd was hungry and five loaves and two fish were passed among them. They ate all they could eat and had leftovers for days. We are solution-driven people. It's a trait that we admire and it's how we overcome challenges. But there are times when our logic and planning actually fall short of what God has in mind. With Jesus, there is always the potential for a miracle. While we plan and offer up solutions, we have to keep our eyes open for the miraculous possibilities of Jesus. May your hopes and expectations grow beyond your ability to plot and plan!

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 9.10-17 (ESV)

On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. ¹² Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." ¹³ But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ And they did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

- It had already been an amazing day. The crowds of people couldn't get enough of Jesus. They craved his message about the Kingdom of God, and they hoped for the miraculous healing he could bring. As the day wore on though, Jesus' disciples began to anticipate a logistical problem. All of these thousands of people would need to eat and they were gathered in a food desert. They came up with two options, 1) send the people away to find their own food, or 2) the disciples would have to go to town and purchase enough food for everyone. Instead of going with option 1 or 2, Jesus found another way—a miraculous intervention. **What is one challenge that you were able to resolve through a good plan? Have there been some challenges you couldn't solve despite your best efforts? Have you ever been surprised by God's provision in your life?**
- *Jesus, You have given me resources to address the needs of those around me. Give me a larger vision for what is possible with you! Amen.*

TUESDAY: PHILIPPIANS 4.18-20 (NIV)

I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰ *To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- Paul's ministry was supported by many of the churches he started. Here he was expressing gratitude for the abundant gifts that had been given. He has more than enough. And he is confident that those who have given will also have every need met. Their sacrifices honor God. **What does sacrificial giving look like for you? Have you experienced God's provisions after you have made a sacrificial offering?**
- *Lord God, I want my whole life to be an offering to you. I am not there yet. Give me your grace as I grow in faith knowing that you are all I need. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: JEREMIAH 10.23-24 (NIV)

*Lord, I know that people's lives are not their own;
it is not for them to direct their steps.*

²⁴ *Discipline me, Lord, but only in due measure—
not in your anger,
or you will reduce me to nothing.*

- The prophet Jeremiah was tasked with sharing some hard truths with God's people. Things had not been going well, and Jeremiah listed their sins and announced the judgment. And yet the core issue is revealed in these verses above. Our lives are not our own. We belong to God, and when we forget that, things will not go well. The prophet invites appropriate discipline knowing that the reset of his heart is his only hope for restoration. **Is there something you are currently facing in which you need God to direct your steps?**
- *Lord God, guide and direct me today. Refine me. My life is not my own but yours, have thine own way. Amen.*

THURSDAY: PROVERBS 19.20-21 (NIV)

*Listen to advice and accept discipline,
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.*

²¹ *Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

- We have no shortage of voices giving us advice. *Who to vote for. What to wear. What to eat.* The author of Proverbs wrote that we should heed advice and accept appropriate discipline in order to keep our hearts aligned with God's purposes. There is wisdom and discernment about which voices to listen to and God's purposes will prevail in our lives when we listen and accept. **What voices seem to give the loudest advice? Which voices seem aligned with God's purpose for your life?**
- *God, I pray that your Holy Spirit will drown out false advice but make room for me to receive what you have for me to hear. Form me as a disciple of Jesus, may your purpose prevail! Amen.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 17.20 (NIV)

Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

- Jesus unleashes the power to make the impossible possible. We bring our plans to Jesus, Jesus blows our plans away, Jesus invites us into the new plan! Just enough faith can move mountains, but it is still the power of God that brings about the miraculous! **Have you ever felt like you didn't have enough faith or the problem in front of you was too big? How might Jesus be inviting you into a miracle?**
- *Jesus, You are the Son of God. Your presence on earth was a miracle, and your display of God's power will be told forever. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 77.13-19 (NIV)

Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

¹⁴ *You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.*

¹⁵ *With your mighty arm you redeemed your
people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.*

¹⁶ *The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.*

¹⁷ *The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.*

¹⁸ *Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.*

¹⁹ *Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.*

- Our God performs miracles! Sometimes God takes a scary situation that exposes our weakness and God shows up with great strength. It's good for us to recount them otherwise they might become ordinary or lost to our memory. **Spend some time today adding to this list of God's miracles.**

- *Miracle working God, you have redeemed me with your mighty arm. You make it rain and you create dry ground. Lead me through a life of humble worship as I witness your miraculous work. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In Sunday's message, Pastor Jacob taught on the difference between *logical compassion* (that results in a plan of action) and the *miraculous mindset* (which results in prayer and praise and an openness to the miracles of God).

Consider each of the situations below. As people of compassion, what would a good logical plan look like? What might a miraculous mindset lead to?

A neighbor who is about to be evicted.

Logical plan _____

Miraculous mindset _____

An elderly man is lost and confused on the streets of your town.

Logical plan _____

Miraculous mindset _____

Real life situation you are experiencing:

Logical plan _____

Miraculous mindset _____