

Discussion Questions

Read the passage as a warm up to the discussion. Listen and reflect on it privately. Make notes of things you noticed, have questions about, or insights gleaned.

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

1. What did you find in the message that challenged you? Did you hear anything that you question or want to challenge? Any follow-up questions to help you better grasp a part of the message?

2. How do people use power and contrast it with how God uses power?

3. How did you once view Christianity and how has it changed over the years? Do you see it as a fun, life-giving journey or a solemn, life-zapping drudgery?

4. If we really grasped the power of God how would it change our lives?

5. Share a time God allowed you to struggle with a problem that had to be solved but you were initially lost as to the solution. What was the experience like and what did you learn? What was the outcome?

6. Pastor Richard said: "We are the most powerful when we are the most powerless." Have you found that to be true? Share a time when you felt powerless. What was it like and how did you respond?

7. Are you a dreamer or more of a practical person? Do churches tend to dream big and create hairy audacious goals or do we tend to be cautious? Why do we have a hard time setting goals beyond our abilities and means?

8. How hard is it for you to lose control of things and give them to God? What things do you tend to cling to the most and have a hard time giving God control over them?

End the discussion by taking time to dream dreams for FPC. What dreams do you have for your church? End by saying out loud the passage below.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21