



Left Out and Leftovers | Brittany Powell | 06.29.2024
Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

Share highs and lows from last week.

What is your favorite Little Debbie snack?

What is your favorite leftover food to eat?

GROW

Welcome to week 7 of our series, Unseen and Eternal. This week Pastor Brittany Powell preached on the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and focused on the unseen hero in the story - the person who packed the lunch for the little boy. She highlighted three things that this miracle can teach us: to see the need around us, to recognize the unseen potential in others, and to trust God's hand to turn our 'leftovers' into miracles. Pastor Brittany challenged us to live open-handed lives, releasing control and trusting God with our resources, time, and talents. If we live this way, we are reminded that even our small acts of obedience and generosity can potentially change the trajectory of our lives and others lives around us. Our small acts of faith can have eternal consequences.

Read John 6:1-13

Have you ever experienced the feeling of being left out or unseen in your life? How has this experience affected your relationship with and perception of God?

Jesus asked Philip a question to test him, already knowing what he was going to do. This reminds us that God doesn't tempt us (Jas 1:13), but as the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2), he does test in order to mature and perfect our faith. The story of Abraham is a vivid example of this (Gen 22:1). What gift, talent, or treasure do you have that you think God might be asking you to surrender to Him, for His kingdom?

Pastor Brittany mentioned two other verses that talk about the nature of faith. Faith is more than mere belief and intellectual assent, it is deep trust and conviction in God's promises, even when they are not immediately visible to us. A faith that doesn't move doesn't work. We are called to have a living, active faith. Believing in God means trusting Him enough to step out when we feel like He is speaking, even when we can't see the whole picture. It means letting go of our tight grip on control and allowing God to work miracles through our small acts of obedience. Just like the boy with the loaves and fish, our seemingly insignificant contributions can be transformed by God into something extraordinary.

Read Hebrews 11:1; James 2:17

Can you think of a time when a small act of obedience led to a significant impact? How has this lead to you exercising your faith more?

What do you think Jesus is saying to you at this point in your life, in the context of the challenges and opportunities you are facing? Where do you think Jesus is asking you to step out in faith?

M O V E

Faith often feels like stepping into the unknown. It can be exciting and scary. Yet, it is in these moments where our faith is both tested and perfected. Abraham failed many times, but God did not abandon him or stop using him for His purposes. Abraham's faith was perfected over time, and towards the end of his life he was a man of deep faith, even trusting God to raise his son from the dead if necessary (Heb 11:19). Abraham's life reminds us that faith is not about never faltering, but it's about trusting God to be faithful even when we're not. Abraham's faith wasn't formed overnight, it was a lifelong journey. So remember as you venture to step out in faith

more and more, your confidence is not in your own ability or success, but it is in the God who your faith is in. He promises to finish the good work that He began in you (Phil 1:6).

This week, intentionally look for someone who might feel 'unseen' and find a way to encourage them.

As a group, are there any ways that you can collectively 'pack a lunch' for someone in your group or someone in need that any of you might know?

Bonus: Take some time as a group to collectively decide on a serving event and 'pack some lunches' during Love Our City!

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P R A Y

Spend some time in prayer this week around these three themes:

- Ask God to give you eyes to see the needs of those around you and the faith to step out and meet those needs.
- Ask God to help you see people the way He sees them - seeing the unseen potential in others and the faith to call it out and encourage them.
- Ask God if there is anything in your life that you are grasping to control that He wants you to release. Write this down in a journal or your Bible. Commit this to Him, and trust that He will take care of it.