

Discipleship: sermon notes

discussion guide

based on **Luke 9:10-17** (Linked to sermon of 27/02/22)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks



Introduction: It is always worth looking at the context of the passages we are studying. At the beginning of the chapter the twelve disciples have been sent out by Jesus to preach the gospel and heal the sick. They return excited to tell Jesus of the wonderful miracles that had been done. No doubt they were full of joy but also probably tired and in need of rest. It is worth bearing this background in mind as you study the passage.

Worship: We are going to be looking at God's abundant provision in the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. Begin by sharing with one another any ways you have seen God's provision this week. It could be material, spiritual or emotional. Having shared some of these, begin to praise God for His abundance and provision. You might like to use Psalm 16 or listen to <https://youtu.be/7ErgE2rGpyw> "God provides" if you are fans of gospel music (which I happen to be).

Head:

Read through Luke 9:10-17 and discuss the following questions

1. What previous events does verse 10 refer to (hint: read the intro) and why do you think Jesus takes them away "privately"?
2. What does verse 11 tell us about a) people's attitude to Jesus b) Jesus' attitude towards people?
3. How do you think the disciples felt about their quiet time with Jesus, post-mission, being hijacked by a large crowd? (imagine how verse 13 might have been spoken)
4. In verse 13, who does Jesus expect to feed the people? Why do they feel incapable of doing this?

5. How many people do you think were in the crowd? (note that they only count the men!)
6. In verse 16 what does Jesus do with the food? (He could, of course, just ask God to provide food for everyone without using these meagre provisions. Why do you think he does this? What do you think Jesus is trying to teach his disciples here?)
7. What does verse 17 tell us about the way that God provides? Is this your expectation?

Heart:

Bring to mind a time when you were in a large gathering with food (we are probably talking pre- Covid times.) I wonder if you have ever had to cater for a large group of people or can imagine doing so. How would you plan for this? How would you have felt if extra people turned up, say 5000+? I always imagine that the disciples at this point must have been pretty tired after their mission and looking forward to a retreat with Jesus. Instead Jesus wants them to cater for 5000+. I'm guessing they weren't impressed.

We all have times when we feel trained and lacking in resources. Share some examples with one another. Now have a read through some of these verses and discuss how we might be able to experience God's provision in the midst of our own inadequacies:

Genesis 22:9-14 What did God require from Abraham before He provided?

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Timothy 6:17

1 Peter 4:11

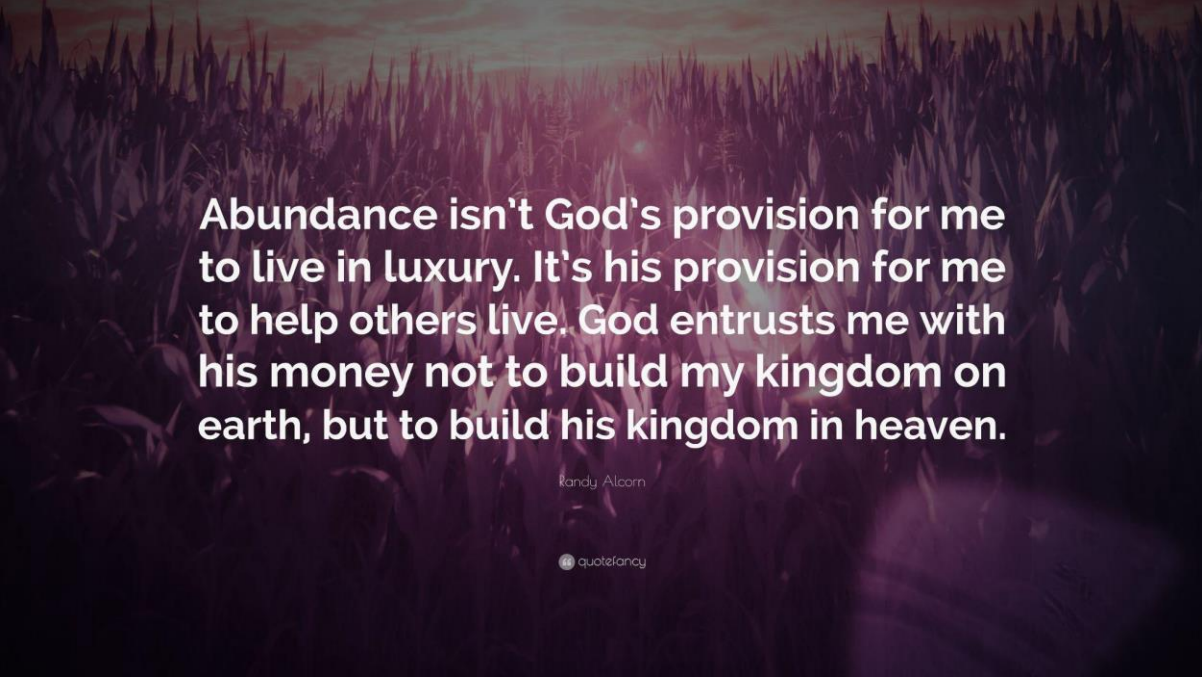
Hebrews 1:3

You may well be able to think of other Biblical examples of God's provision so do share those too.

Hands:

This passage reminds us that God can provide for our needs, often over and above them. However, he often asks us to bring what we have to Him (our own metaphorical bread and fishes) so He can bless and use it. Spend some time in prayer, asking God what it is He wants you to bring and asking Him to bless it - it could be money, food, hospitality or a skill such as being a good listener or talking to others about Jesus.

Ask Jesus to bring to mind people and situations that need God's provision and prayer into those situations.



Abundance isn't God's provision for me to live in luxury. It's his provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with his money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build his kingdom in heaven.

kandy Alcorn

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