



Small Group Study Guide

THE WALK FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

March 7, 2021
“Serve:
Here I Am, Lord,
Send Me”

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for the opportunities that you give us to meet the needs of others. I pray that we would be a gathering of people who would be so committed to participating with you and that you would use our works of service to grow our faith in you. And I pray that we would do what millions of Christians have done through the ages and simply say yes to you. Help us to do what we know how to do and trust you to do what you know how to do. I pray that we would be characterized by that kind of faith and confidence in you. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Matthew 14:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

INTRODUCTION

If you have ever volunteered to do something for which you felt totally unqualified, then you already know what an experience like that can do for your faith. One of the primary ways God grows our faith is through personal ministry.

Serving others enables us to experience God's power in our weakness. We may feel ill-equipped and unprepared, but these opportunities are incredibly rich experiences through which God grows our faith. At first, you may perform an act of personal ministry or service in order to benefit someone else. In hindsight, though, most people feel like they are the ones that have benefited the most.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Have you ever sensed that God was urging you to do something, yet you refused to do it because you felt inadequate or unprepared? If so, what was it? Why did you refuse?
- 2) When have you ever said yes to something God was urging you to do for which you felt unprepared? What was the impact of that experience on your faith?
- 3) The disciples used the size of the crowd and their lack of food as excuses to not do what Jesus asked. What excuses do we use?
- 4) The disciples did what they knew how to do. They passed out the broken pieces of bread and fish. And God blessed their efforts and allowed them to accomplish far more than they could have in their own strength. What is the lesson for us?
- 5) What opportunities do you sense God opening for you to practice an act of service toward others?

FINAL APPLICATION

Identify what breaks your heart and what can be done about it.