



# Small Group Study Guide for September 12, 2021

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** The Lord pushes us to the end of our ropes by asking us to do the impossible. Yet when we realize our inadequacy and rely fully on God, we see how He works in us and through us to do the miraculous.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. What are the blessing of being in a small group, and how has your small group been a blessing to you?
2. What was the last passage of Scripture you read, and what did God say to you through it?

## **In the Word: Read Mark 6:32-44**

3. Jesus had compassion on the crowd, because 'they were like sheep without a shepherd.' Which people or in what circumstances might Jesus have compassion on people today?
4. When the disciples asked Jesus to send the people into the villages to eat something, He said to them, "You give them something to eat." What are some of the seemingly impossible challenges that God gives us (you) today?
5. When the disciples are incredulous over Jesus' directions, He asks them what they already have. What are the resources that you already have to bring the Kingdom of God into people's lives? (think in terms of time, talents, treasure, etc. and how God works through you)
6. Compare this reading with **Mark 8:1-10**. What are the similarities, and what are the differences? Note that Mark 6 (5,000) was in Galilee, mostly Jewish. Mark 8 (4,000) was in the Decapolis, mostly Gentile. Jesus is showing that the Kingdom of God has come to both Jews & Gentiles, with Jesus as their King.

### **Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

7. When Jesus asks us to do the impossible, He uses the resources we already have and multiplies them by His divine power. What difficult thing or challenge did Jesus bring you through, and how did God support you through it?
  
8. Jesus took the fish and bread and blessed them and multiplied them. He did the miraculous. But the disciples had a job to do. What was it, and how does it foreshadow our involvement in Jesus' miraculous ministry today?
  
9. Jesus fed the people and there was an abundance left over. Where do you feel that you have an abundance of blessings, and how is God prompting you to share?
  
10. When we see people through Jesus' eyes, we see them with His compassion and longing to care for them and love them. Why is this a challenge for us to do sometimes?

**Prayer:** Ask God to fill us with His compassion and grace, so that we can use the resources He has already given us to extend the Kingdom of God to others. Ask God to show us where we have an abundance to share, and how He is inviting us to participate in the distribution of His blessings. Ask God to bless your small group and our congregation through the upcoming Spiritual Growth Campaign.

**Next Week:** Our Spiritual Growth Campaign kicks off as we look at the book "I am a church member" by Thom Rainer. A Small Group Study Guide is available for pick up at church in the lobby and office, or is available via download on the church website. You will need the Small Group Study guide and the book for your small group time together.

**Note:** There is a **Congregation Meeting** at 9:30 on Sunday, September 26. You may join us in person or via zoom.