

## DAY 1 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

## CONVERSATION STARTER

What was a "defining moment" in your life?

## SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Note: *the Word of God was given to us for more than simply learning information. It was for facilitating our transformation. This week, we're going to practice an ancient discipline of reading over the same Scripture several times, looking at it from a different angle. Avoid the temptation to say, "I know that already" because "knowing something" and letting something become a part of you is a VERY different thing! Get to know Jesus differently this week as you soak in his words and actions!*

**Scripture:**

Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.

So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

"How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out."

They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share.

They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed. **Mark 6:31–44 NLT**

**Sermon Insights:** Step 1 of 4) God wants us to identify the problem.

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Identify who had what needs...who do you resonate with the most?

Do you feel so rushed in life that it is hard to identify your most important priorities?

What problem did Jesus identify? What problem did the disciples identify? What problem did the people identify?

## PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, I don't always see problems clearly...and I sometimes try to fix them with my own power and ideas. Help me see your plan and participate in what you are doing! Help me to have a bigger viewpoint for others than I currently do.

## DAY 2 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

## CONVERSATION STARTER

What is your favorite meal?

## SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

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So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

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**Sermon Insights:**

Step 2 of 4) God wants us to assess existing resources.

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

What did you see in the Scripture today that you missed when you read the same Scripture yesterday?

Did you notice that Jesus and the disciples "didn't even have time to eat"?

Jesus has asked Antioch Christian Church to feed a lot of people – through the campuses at Marion, Oelwein, Online, and now Stoney Point. Some of us are tired and hungry...Jesus is saying, "YOU give them something to eat." As you "assess existing resources," are you aware of 1) where your limited resources came from already, and 2) who is going to provide more?

## PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, we realize that you are the giver of all good gifts. We realize that everything we have is from your hand. Teach us to trust you, obey, and expect you to do miracles!

## DAY 3 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

## CONVERSATION STARTER

What is your typical response when you are asked—by someone you respect—to do something you don't understand?

## SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

**Scripture:**

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So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

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Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share.

They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed. **Mark 6:31–44 NLT**

*John's version of the event includes:* Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. **John 6:5–6 NLT**

**Sermon Insights:**

Step 3 of 4) God wants us to offer what we have to him in faith.

Jesus didn't provide all the food at once...it came as the disciples kept breaking it and feeding the people.

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Have you ever held back on obeying God? Why?

Many believe in God...few trust him. Which are you?

Why do you think it is significant that Jesus provided the food slowly as the disciples obeyed?

Is it possible that our desire to stay in control sometimes limits what God accomplishes in our lives?

## PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, I believe you can do miracles. Teach me to trust you in real time. Help me to take my next step of obedience!

## DAY 4 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

## CONVERSATION STARTER

What do you like to anticipate?

## SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

**Scripture:**

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**Sermon Insights:**

Step 4 of 4) God wants us to anticipate that he will multiply what is given to him in faith.

Sometimes when we are waiting on God to do a miracle FOR us...God is waiting to do a miracle THROUGH us!

Extraordinary moves of God begin with ordinary acts of obedience.

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Why would God give you something that he would ask you to give back and trust him with?

What has God given you...time, energy, money, talent...that he wants you to trust him with?

Are you anticipating great things from God?

## PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for allowing me to participate in your great work. Help me anticipate great things from you!

## DAY 5 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER ("SOAP")

## CONVERSATION STARTER

Describe a time when you remember praying fervently.

## SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

**Scripture:**

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. **Hebrews 5:7-9 NLT**

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open.

So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!" **Matthew 26:36-46 NLT**

**Sermon Insights:**

NEXT is building kingdom impact in Eastern Iowa and beyond. Embrace this vision with love, with your resources, and with your prayers. Prayer always precedes God moving powerfully.

Learn more about NEXT: [lifeisforliving.org/next](https://lifeisforliving.org/next)

Sign up for Daily Prayers: [lifeisforliving.org/nextprayer](https://lifeisforliving.org/nextprayer)

## APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

How do these Scriptures help you understand Jesus better? Do they help you envision how Jesus can truly empathize with you?

Sometimes Jesus presents an example for us to follow, like forgiving someone else. Other times, Jesus provides for us something we could not possibly have otherwise, like God's gift of forgiveness.

What is an example Jesus gives that you want to learn to follow?

What is something you are grateful that Jesus provides for you?

## PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for coming to earth, suffering, dying, rising from the dead, and being our compassionate High Priest—able to feel our pain AND provide for us what we could not provide for ourselves.