

**OCTOBER 17, 2021**  
**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
**THIS IS US WEEK 5 | WE ARE GENEROUS**  
**JOHN 6:1-15**  
**FALL QUARTER WEEK 6 OF 13**

EFCC's definition of a disciple: Someone who is learning to live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

EFCC's discipleship values: Pursuit, Obedience, Journey, Wholeness, Together, Mission.

EFCC's discipleship model: being WITH (upward focus), becoming LIKE (inward focus), doing AS (outward focus).

EFCC's discipleship methodology: focus on what we need to learn, what we need to practice and with whom we need to be in relationship in order to live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

I think the discipleship value most highlighted this week is **journey**. Journey is about growth and maturity. Here is how we've defined it -

"Intentional, passionate, humdrum and full of surprises, dynamic and not static, constant, stops and starts, grace-driven. These words - and more - can all be used to describe the journey of transformation that is the Christian life. And how does transformation occur? Through our participation and alignment with the Spirit of God, through our willingness to step into the messiness of life and through our commitment that EFCC will be a safe place to not be okay. Thus, we "press on" by committing ourselves to worship, prayer, Scripture reading and memorization, community, service, sabbath, generosity, silence, solitude, and more because we believe actively training ourselves through healthy spiritual rhythms directs our whole selves toward being formed into the image of Jesus."

While we are generous people, we are not perfectly generous people. Thus, we can continue to be grown by the "Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17). This account from the ministry of Jesus is something He wants to use to bring greater growth as we continue our journey.

In the being **WITH**, becoming **LIKE** and doing **AS** paradigm, this week's message focuses us on **becoming like AND doing as**. As we become more generous in our hearts, we will be more generous in our actions. On the other hand, as we are more generous in our actions, we will become more generous in our hearts. I know you understand and personally experience this dynamic.

As always, there is more here to discuss than you probably have time for. I trust the Holy Spirit will guide you to do what's appropriate for your group!

**Renewed by Grace**

**1. What would you prefer - a nosey neighbor or a noisy neighbor? Why?**

A nosey neighbor, for sure. I don't mind the nosey-ness at all. I like knowing someone is paying attention to my comings and goings. It is much easier for me to live with that than a noisy

neighbor who keeps me up at night or wakes me up early in the morning. I much prefer peace to privacy.

What would you say?

### Equipped as Disciples

**2. Review with each other how it went practicing last week's "I will..." statement. Did you get the result you were praying for? Why?**

Our group did a sharing and prayer emphasis last week, so we didn't discuss the sermon. Given that, I did not develop an I WILL Statement from the message. However, I have a number of them which I am working through from my own time in the Word and from my times of discipling guys.

How are the I WILL Statements going for you? For your group? Can I encourage you to continue to lead by example and tell stories of how it goes during the week? People will catch on over time. And you'll be blessed because of your steps of obedience.

### Read John 6:1-15

**3. What's one thing from the text that stands out to you? Why?**

I want to start by giving each person a shot at sharing one observation from the account. I envision this as you going around the circle and asking each person to share their What and their Why. I don't envision there being a lot of discussion about what is shared. I want to honor each person's insights into the text, and provide a space for them to share it. I am also curious as to whether or not there will be similar observations or if they will be quite different.

**4. Where do you see yourself in the story? Are you more likely to be Philip or the boy? Why? What do you learn from this account, regardless of who you mostly identify with?**

There are three main characters in this account - Philip, the boy and Jesus.

Philip is the "How are we gonna pull this off?" guy. The boy is the "I don't have much but I'll give what I got" guy. Jesus is the "I got this" guy.

Here are some observations about Philip -

- Philip sees the need. That's good. But he doesn't see the power of Jesus. Or he forgets (which would seem hard to do). Jesus has done a whole bunch of miracles prior to this one (look how deep in Luke this account falls). Either way, he doesn't connect Jesus to the need.
- Jesus singled out Philip, according to John.
- Philip, as you know, looked at the need and then looked at his resources, and concluded Jesus' question was crazy.
- Philip concluded this was an impossible situation and that Jesus was asking them to do something that was also impossible.
- Jesus asked Philip, "Where shall **we** buy bread?" He didn't ask, "Where are **you** going to get the bread?" Philip probably didn't hear the word "we." Had he, he might have said, "I have no idea. What are your thoughts?" Jesus never expected Philip to do this on his own, but Philip assumed he had to do this on his own.
- What else do you see in Philip?

- Are you more likely to be Philip or the boy?

Here are some observations about the boy -

- He is willing to surrender his lunch to Jesus.
- He participated in Jesus' mission through his generosity.
- He didn't let any of the reasons why he should NOT be generous keep him from being generous.
- He gave what he had and didn't worry about whether it was going to be enough. He clearly knew it wasn't, of course.
- He might seem a little foolish to everyone watching.
- Jesus didn't criticize him. And I suspect the others didn't because Jesus didn't.
- I would love to know what he knew about Jesus!
- He clearly thought that what he had would be helpful.
- What else do you see?
- Are you more likely to be Philip or the boy?

What do you learn from the account? What challenges you? What encourages you?

**5. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12. How does this passage inform the John 6 text, and how does it speak to the issue of generosity in your life?**

“11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.”

- Here are some observations about how 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 informs the John 6 text -
  - By the time Luke presents this account, Jesus has done many miracles, He has forgiven sin, He has declared He is the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2, He has declared Himself the Lord of the Sabbath, He has called Himself the Son of Man many times (clearly linking Himself to the book of Daniel), and there are many other things He has done, as well.
  - Where I am going with this is this - if people still didn't believe He is God, they certainly recognized that God is with Him in a special way and that God could easily work through Him (yet again) to perform this easy miracle. (Back in Luke 8 He heals a demon-possessed man, a sick woman, and He raises Jairus' daughter. My point is that feeding five thousand people is easy compared to those things.)
  - Since the disciples believe that in the LORD's hand is power and might, and since they have seen Him do crazy stuff, this passage in Chronicles should have (and I'm not being hard on Philip because I fall prey to the same forgetfulness he does) been a great reminder that He has what it takes to feed these folks.
  - Yet, I am like Philip sometimes. Are you? We forget about His greatness and power and glory and victory and ownership and dominion and rulership and strong hand and power and might, and we think, "How am I going to pull this off? He is crazy asking me to do this."
  - This passage teaches us that "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do!"

- Perhaps the boy knew this, perhaps he didn't. Philip should have. And so should I. Ouch.
- What other things do you see?
- How does the Chronicles passage speak to the issue of generosity in your life?
  - Here's the question to ask, "If these things are true about God, how should I live when it comes to being a more generous person? Why?"
  - How do His attributes affect my generosity?
  - If He owns everything and has dominion over everything, how does that affect my generosity?
  - If riches come from Him, how does that impact my generosity?
  - I'll leave it to your group to discuss some of these things.

**6. Are there any other comments about the text or the sermon that you would like to share?**

Just one last chance to let people share anything they feel compelled to share.

**Sent in Love**

**7. God calls all His people to be participants in His mission. That happens when we are generous. When it comes to being generous, "THIS WEEK I WILL..."**

When it comes to developing useful I WILL Statements, it's best to keep these thoughts in mind -

- A person's Statement should be clear. They should be able to tell the group exactly what they plan to do.
- It should be concise. This is similar to clear, I suppose. The Statement should not be foggy or opaque or difficult to evaluate if it was done or not. It should be measurable.aa
- In a perfect world it is something which the person is able to complete or at least start within 24 hours.
- It should be simple and achievable.
- There is nothing wrong with starting small and building from that.