

God's Promise of Provision

"Case For Christ" Series, (A Study of Mark's Gospel) part 21
March 20th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

Four Provision Principles:

1. Pursue ...

(Matthew 6:31-33)

2. Offer ...

(Ephesians 3:20, Luke 16:10, Proverbs 3:9-10)

Don't wait ...

(Mark 6:41, John 6:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19)

3. Trust ...

(Mark 6:41-42, Proverbs 3:5-6)

4. Remember ...

(Mark 6:43-44, Matthew 14:20, Luke 9:17, John 6:12)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our tenth week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 6:30-44, we read how Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people when they were sitting outside in field.

Speaking of being outside, what is a fun recent or not so recent memory of being outside?

Jesus fed the crowd in field with bread and fish.

Speaking of food in a field, what is your favorite picnic food or drink?

What is your favorite food or meal when you go out to eat?

One of the 'provision principles' we looked at from Mark 6 was to not wait to have more to give thanks for what you already have.

When you think things you are thankful to God for, what typically comes to your mind?

Can you think of any areas or realities that is easy to overlook?

In Mark 6, "Plan A" was for Jesus and the disciples to take a boat ride and find a quiet place to rest. But "Plan B" kicked in when the people followed them and Jesus ended up being available to minister some more.

There are times where we are hoping to get some rest but it turns out to be a time to push through and work a little harder for just a little longer.

When was there a time when you thought you were all spent and needed to rest but you ended up having to exert more energy to meet a need or address a situation. How did it go?

When is it ok to say 'no' to a pressing need that you are made aware of?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 6:30-44)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday, we heard the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. Another story that includes a miraculous feeding is found in Exodus 16.

Let's read Exodus 16:1-36 and after each section, let's summarize what is happening and any insight that we see.

From Exodus 16, what "challenges" or "stretching situations" are the people facing?

Can you think of a time you had a similar response to God when facing a challenging situation?

Let's read Deuteronomy 8:2-3.

How does this passage help explain Exodus 16?

What might be a correlation between daily manna back then and our faith today?

How might Exodus 16 have been different if the Israelites were thankful for what God provided?

2. After reading Exodus 16 and Mark 6, it would be easy to think God's provision is about always meeting our needs for food and shelter in a timely manner.

Because of that, it is easy to doubt God's goodness when God doesn't provide in our timeline or the way we want him to.

How could John 6:25-40 help us in our doubt and shed light on what God's provision really looks like?

How does God's provision for you impact how you view your relationship with him?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?