

# Lifeline

## BELONG

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### ICE-BREAKER

What was the most satisfying meal you've ever eaten?

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:34-44 NLT

34 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. 35 Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. 36 Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat." 37 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!" 38 "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." 39 Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. 41 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. 42 They all ate as much as they wanted, 43 and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. 44 A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.

Mark 7:24-30 NLT

24 Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. 25 Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, 26 and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, 27 Jesus told her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs." 28 She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates." 29 "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." 30 And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

## BE

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Start with a quick poll, how often do you experience miraculous things of the Holy Spirit? Never, occasionally, often, or very often? Follow with a second question: how often do you desire to experience miraculous things?

Read Mark 6:34-44 NLT. Re-read the passage. Now, retell the passage in your own words. What questions came up? What stood out to you?

Try and put yourselves in the disciples shoes in the Mark 6 passage. How long had they been with Jesus? What does scripture say they have experienced themselves? What has Jesus already taught them? What challenges might they be facing?

Read Mark 7:24-30 NLT. What are your immediate impressions of this passage? Does it seem fair? Why or why not? Dig deeper: what are some reasons why Jesus might respond the way He does? Do your reasons fit within the character of Jesus seen elsewhere in scripture? What is the ultimate outcome of this story?

Take a step back: can you see yourself anywhere in these two passages? If so, where and why?

## DO

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Partnering with God for the miraculous starts from a place of worship and thanksgiving. Jesus is always in the business of advancing His Kingdom.

John Wimber, the spiritual founder of the Vineyard, said this: "We don't see God's power, we seek His presence. His power & everything else we need is always found in His presence."

Recognizing that Holy Spirit is already present, invite Him to minister to each person. And pray this prayer:

May we recognize your miracles.  
May we receive your miracles.  
May we release your miracles.  
Amen.

