



Scripture

¹⁴Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." ¹⁶And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." ²⁰"And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." ²¹And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?" (Mark 8:14-21 ESV)

Outline

Key Question: To what extent am I surrendering to God and obeying God?

Big Idea: Following Jesus requires spiritual eyes to see

Point 1. We must not use physical means for spiritual issues

Point 2. We must apply the spiritual work of God to our physical lives

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: Share a situation where you were focused on a physical need or problem, but the real issue was something deeper, something spiritual?

Point 1: We must not use physical means for spiritual issues:

- What are some examples of "physical means" we might try to use to solve "spiritual problems"? (e.g., relying on our own efforts, seeking worldly solutions, etc.)
- What is one specific area of your life where you need to shift your focus from the physical to the spiritual?
- Why is it important to distinguish between physical and spiritual needs? How can confusing the two hinder our faith?
- Jesus asks, "Do you still not understand or perceive?" What are some things that might blind us to spiritual truth?
- What is one step you can take this week to develop your spiritual understanding and rely more on God's power?

Point 2: We must apply the spiritual work of God to our physical lives:

- Jesus reminds them of the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000. How do these miracles demonstrate God's power to meet both physical *and* spiritual needs?
- How can remembering God's past faithfulness (like the disciples remembering the feedings) help us trust Him in our current situations, both physically and spiritually?
- What does it look like to "apply the spiritual work of God to our physical lives"? Can you give some practical examples? (e.g., prayer, trusting in God's provision, seeking spiritual guidance in practical decisions)
- How can we cultivate "spiritual eyes" to see God's hand at work in our lives, both in the big and small things?

Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.