



*grace*  
in place of *grace*

## Walking Through the Book of John DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 4 | FEBRUARY 16

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### RECEIVE

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Find a quiet space and read through **John 6**. There are several well-known and significant stories in this chapter. Our focus will be on verses 1–5 but read the chapter in its entirety. Take note of the way this chapter begins with the faith of a small boy but ends with adult disciples engaged in a hard conversation with Jesus.

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### REFLECT

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1. In verses 2 and 5, we read that great crowds were following Jesus. He was healing the sick, and many people came to see what was happening. Imagine yourself in that crowd—what are some of the emotions, thoughts, or ideas you might have?
2. In verse 5–6, Jesus asks Phillip how he thinks they will feed the crowds. Since Jesus already knew what would happen why do you think He engages Phillip with this question? How do you think Phillip experienced that conversation?
3. As the disciples discussed a plan to feed the people, a young boy approached them with five small barley loaves and two fish. Why is the description that it was a “barley loaf and small fish” significant? What background information does this tell us about the boy?

4. The disciples face this dilemma with a scarcity mindset (there is not enough) and the young boy approaches them with a mind toward abundance (what I have can help). How do you see these different postures playing out in this story? How do the themes of abundance and scarcity play out in your own life?
5. In verses 12–13, we discover that not only was there enough for everyone to eat but twelve baskets leftover. Why is there so much leftover? What does this tell us about Jesus and the gifts that we bring forward?
6. One of the lessons that Jesus teaches here is about our approach and posture toward giving. What is the orientation of the boy's heart, and how does his posture make a difference despite the small size of his actual gift?
7. There are several verses that foreshadow the chaos that will eventually take over Jesus' life. What do you notice? Refer to verses 4, 11 and 15.
8. This passage ends when Jesus withdrew to a mountain alone. After this miraculous sign and the wonder of feeding 5,000 people, what are some of the reasons Jesus might have withdrawn from that scene alone?

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## RESPOND

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Do you have a story of bringing a gift forward for the good of others? Perhaps something you were personally able to contribute or, perhaps you've been in a circle where someone, like the boy in this story, stepped forward. If so, take a moment to share it or write it down. If you do not yet have a moment like this, pause and consider the gifts that you hold in your own hands and how you might bring them to Jesus for the good for the community. What could you give? What can you bring to the table? This is easier asked than answered, so it is okay to take time to think on it. What barriers prevent you from bringing what you have forward?

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## BLESSING

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This week may you see the small things you hold in your hands for the significance they bring to God's work. The needs of this world seem too big for anyone to manage, our contributions can feel like a drop of water in a bucket. So, may you see clearly the small part God is calling you to play. May you trust what you have in the hands of the Great Giver, and may we trust in God who can make it ripple out across the sea.

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## READ FOR NEXT WEEK

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### **Reading Plan | Grace in Place of Grace**

Week 1 | January 26 | John 1

Week 2 | February 2 | John 2 & 3

Week 3 | February 9 | John 4 & 5

Week 4 | February 16 | John 6 & 7:13

**Week 5 | February 23 | John 7:14–8**

Week 6 | March 2 | John 9 & 10