



STUDY GUIDE

November 26, 2023

Message Series:

Beyond

Message Title:

God Multiplies

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

As a child, did you ever give something away or take something that didn't belong to you, and it has stuck with you all these years? What did you learn from the experience?

Pray:

Dear Lord, out of all the things we could be doing right now, THIS is one of the most important. Drawing close to You means You are drawing close to us. Bless our time together as we focus on Your Word and learn, grow and stretch through the work of Your Holy Spirit. Please continue to reveal Your plan to us and teach us to live as Your disciples. We pray this in Your son's name Jesus, Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- As 2023 is coming to a close, what are you most grateful for this year?

Read Luke 5:1-7.

- Why are verses 6 and 7 so descriptive? What is Luke trying to communicate to his readers and what is God trying to communicate to us with this extra detail?

Speaking about the story in Matthew 14 where Jesus feeds five thousand, *"The disciples look at this boy's inventory, they glance at the crowd, and they do what you and I do. How could I possibly feed thousands of families with a single-family serving? They were dealing - like you and me - in addition and subtraction. It made sense - it's simple math. You can't make more food out of thin air! Well... you and I can't. But that's because we add. God, however, multiplies."* - Pastor Brian Hughes

- How have you personally experienced God's multiplication in your own life?

Read Ephesians 3:20-21.

- What might get in our way of believing that, in our lives, Jesus is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"? What can we do about this problem?

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 10 min./15 min. discussion)

- Pastor Brian unpacks Malachi 3:10, about bringing the full tithe into the storehouse, that God says to test Him in this and see if He won't open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing for you, so much that there will not be room enough to store it. Are you familiar with this verse and how have you seen it play out in your life? What has been your experience in terms of surrendering your finances to God?
- How has PCC's approach to making a difference in this world, made a personal difference in your life? How have you participated?

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

Read Proverbs 8:22-36.

- What is your reaction to this message in light of what our church is trying to accomplish through the Beyond vision?

Read Romans 11:33-36.

- How do these verses align with our Beyond vision?

(Matthew 14 focus) "I believe God has positioned our church in front of thousands of people - just like those first followers were in front of thousands that day. And just like that day, people are still hungry. They're hungry to know God, to know that God cares, to know that God has a plan and a purpose for their lives...."

It's uncanny, really, the similarities. Because we are here asking, "how is this going to work? And I believe that the voice of God is saying, "bring me what you have, and I'll use it to change the lives of people. We don't know how we can possibly go Beyond our limits, beyond Sunday and Beyond ourselves. Because we're still adding. But fortunately, God still multiplies." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

"Over and over, we have been a witness to the miracle of God doing what God does. Like the boy that day, bringing what he had (Matthew 14), we can do that today. And if we do, we'll get to be a part of a miracle again." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Let's pray.

Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise and glorify You, our Savior. Help us to always be sensitive to the immense sacrifice You made for us. Help our faith to grow as we consider what our commitments will continue to be to the BEYOND vision for our church over the next year. Thank You for how You have expanded PCC's reach over the last 21 years, and we pray again that You would give us favor as we put our focus on You and expand our reach through the unity of our church. We commit to You all that we have and all that we do, and we know You will establish our plans. We are honored and humbled to be a part of Your multiplying miracles, going beyond what we ever thought possible, and changing the world in Your name, Amen.