

There's Got to be a Better Way! #3 From Empty to Filled

I. Announcements & Prayer

- 1) **Deeper Life** - Sun, May 19 @ 5 pm
- 2) **Blood Drive** - Mon, May 13 @ 2-7 pm; Sign up at: www.rcblood.org/appt Sponsor code: TCND
- 3) Did you know that Pastor Doyle has a new website with daily devotions? The plan is to have more tools to help us grow as disciples. Check it out at <https://doylejackson.com>
- 4) Join us for **Worship Night** - Wed, May 15 @ 7 pm
- 5) **Baptism** - Sun, May 26 @ 11 am
- 6) **Next Steps** - Sat, Jun 1 @ 6:15 pm, and Sun, Jun 2 @ 12:15 pm, in the Upper Room

II. Ice Breaker Questions

- 1) What is your favorite Mother's Day memory? (Ex: You did something great with your mom. Everybody was home.) What makes the best memory for you?

- 2) When you were 7 - 11 years old, what were your Mother's Day traditions, if any? (If someone in your group lost their mother as a child, like Pastor Doyle's father, George Jackson, be prepared to listen to how they managed that loss. This is not always easy for some.)

III. Discussion Questions - Let's Get Talking!

- 1) What is your favorite part of Spring? What projects are you going to start now that we are past Mother's Day? (How will you make the next 60 days productive for months to come?)

2) **Read Isaiah 61:9 (NIV)**

"**Their** descendants will be known among **the** nations and **their** offspring among **the** peoples. All who see **them** will **acknowledge** that **they** are a people **the Lord** has blessed."

Why is it important to acknowledge the Lord? How can that bring a blessing or gratitude in our lives?

- 3) This week, we had three women's stories shared: Jennifer Meyers, Erin Wallace, and Rachel Wojo. What about their stories encourages you most? What inspired you to take a step of faith?

4) Read Mark 1:29-34 (NIV)

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

This paints a pretty real picture of a family. They all went to Simon and Andrew's family home. Apparently Simon Peter's mother-in-law lived with him. We know they have a fishing business and Capernaum is right by the shore of Galilee.

How is this similar and dissimilar to your after-church meals? How did the one miracle lead to the others? (What would you have served for a gathering of family after church?)

5) Read Mark 1:35-39 (NIV)

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Rachel Wojo drew our attention to this passage. What about the previous day would make Jesus, or you for that matter if you were in his sandals, go away to a solitary place? How did that work out for Jesus? How does that show Jesus' life was normal, ordinary?

6) What does Jesus teach us about his purpose? What would you like Jesus to heal, to bring deliverance to in your life, or to give you the strength for for one more step? Can we agree in prayer?