Hope City

Discussion Guide

November 1, 2026

I Didn't Just Come Here To Watch!

Growth Chart | Week 5

Pastor Daniel Groves

Main Idea

God calls us to grow from watching others live out their faith to following Jesus and participating in His mission. The feeding of the five thousand reminds us that the power belongs to Jesus, yet He invites ordinary people to offer what they have. Spiritual maturity becomes visible through faithful stewardship, obedience, service, generosity, and helping others become disciples.

Anchor Verse: *"So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding."*

Hebrews 6:1 NLT, excerpt

Read: John 6:5–13, 35 NLT

1. IT'S TIME TO STOP UNDERESTIMATING WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU!

Philip saw the cost of feeding the crowd. Andrew noticed a boy's five loaves and two fish, but questioned what so little could accomplish. Jesus already knew what He would do. What looked insufficient to the disciples was never a limitation on His power. The boy did not perform the miracle; Jesus did. Our part is to trust Him with what is already in our hands.

Before asking God for more, consider how you are stewarding your time, family, finances, gifts, opportunities, and testimony. Jesus connects faithfulness in little things with faithfulness in larger ones. You do not have to become impressive before God can use you. Offer what you have, and take the next faithful step.

Scripture: John 6:5–9 NLT; Luke 16:10 NLT

Discussion:

1. Where do you tend to focus on what you lack instead of what God has already entrusted to you?
2. What does the boy's small lunch teach you about trusting Jesus rather than your own ability?
3. What would faithfulness look like this week with one responsibility, gift, or opportunity already in your hands?

2. WE WEREN'T CALLED TO JUST WATCH WHAT GOD IS DOING. WE WERE CALLED TO BE PART OF IT!

Jesus provided the meal, and the disciples participated in what He was doing. We cannot save people, change hearts, or manufacture miracles. Jesus has the power, and He invites us into His mission. As recipients of grace, we can reflect that grace through an invitation, a conversation, prayer, or serving someone in need. James reminds us that hearing the Word must become doing what it says.

Jesus identifies Himself as the bread of life. Our deepest need is for Him, and following Him leads to a transformed life. Enjoying church is a beginning; disciples follow Jesus and help others follow Him. His commission calls us to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey. Our time, priorities, and resources can serve a purpose that outlives us.

Generosity is one way to participate. Earthly possessions cannot give lasting purpose, but we can use them to make an eternal difference. Hope for the House invites those who call Hope City home to pray about giving above regular tithes and offerings. The call is to faithful obedience, not equal amounts or comparison. God loves a cheerful giver, and giving should never be reluctant or compelled.

Scripture: John 6:10–13, 35 NLT; James 1:22 NLT; Proverbs 11:24–25 NLT; Matthew 6:21 KJV; Ecclesiastes 12:13 NLT; Matthew 28:19–20 NIV; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 ESV

Discussion:

1. What is the difference between enjoying church and actively following Jesus in everyday life?
2. Who could you serve, encourage, pray with, or invite this week? What first step will you take?
3. What do your choices with time and money reveal about what you treasure?
4. How does giving prayerfully and cheerfully differ from giving out of pressure or comparison?

GROWTH ISN'T JUST ABOUT WHAT GOD CAN PUT INTO YOUR HANDS.
IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE WILLING TO PLACE BACK INTO HIS!

SUMMARY

Jesus is the source of the miracle, and He invites us to participate in His mission. The boy's lunch reminds us to stop dismissing what God has already given us. Faithfulness starts with what is in our hands today. Growing disciples put God's Word into practice, reflect His grace, and invest their lives in helping people find hope in Jesus.

As Growth Chart concludes, the invitation is to keep growing, serving, giving, and making disciples. The goal is a life centered on God, with a legacy of faith that reaches beyond what we accumulate.

CALL TO ACTION

Make a personal commitment to follow Jesus and participate in His mission. Choose one practical response this week.

Offer what you have: Name one gift, resource, or responsibility you will steward faithfully. Write what you will do and when.

Take part in the mission: Choose someone to serve, pray with, or invite. Share your step with a group member and ask them to follow up.

Practice prayerful generosity: If Hope City is your church home, pray about Hope for the House above your regular tithes and offerings: "Lord, what would You have me give?" Respond willingly, without pressure or comparison.

Mark your commitment: The sermon invites you to add your mark to the Growth Chart Wall in the lobby as a sign of your decision to keep growing and following Jesus.

Prayer: *Jesus, thank You for Your grace and for inviting us into Your mission. Help us trust You with what You have placed in our hands. Teach us to obey Your Word, serve others, give cheerfully, and help people follow You. Amen.*

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDS?

Purpose: Help participants recognize what God has entrusted to them and choose one practical way to participate in His mission.

What You Need: Paper or index cards and pens. Allow 8–10 minutes.

How to Play: Ask everyone to draw an open hand. Inside it, write three things God has entrusted to them, such as time, a skill, a relationship, or a resource. Circle one they have underestimated. Beside it, write one person they could bless and one action they can take this week. Invite volunteers to share, then pray together.

Transition: The power was in Jesus, not in the boy's lunch. We can offer what we have and trust Him with the outcome. Connect each person's action to serving others and pointing them toward Jesus.

Leader Closing Question: What will you place in Jesus' hands this week, and how can this group support your next step?

Leader Note: Allow people to pass. Keep sharing voluntary, and do not ask participants to disclose giving amounts. Reinforce prayerful obedience without pressure or comparison. Follow up on each person's practical step at the next meeting.