



## Rooted: The Miracle Worker | October 23, 2019

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Do you think that the people in your life point you more to the miracle, or to what's missing? To hear about that and more, read below.

#### Key Verses

##### Matthew 16:5-12 (NIV)

*"When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. 'Be careful,' Jesus said to them. 'Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.' They discussed this among themselves and said, 'It is because we didn't bring any bread.' Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, 'You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.' Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."*

#### Discussion

Dogs have a tendency to eat things that aren't always good for them. Many dogs even think it's a great idea to eat things like socks. And if we can't get to them in time, some dogs can eat an entire sock whole. When they do something like this, often the best thing we can do is simply wait to see if they throw it up. The sock can actually live inside of them for days without the dog showing outward signs of discomfort, before they're finally able to get it out of their body.

1. Have you ever seen or experienced a dog do something like this? Explain.
2. How do you think this relates to us as humans as we consider the countless messages we receive, interpret and embody every day?

In a lot of ways, we can be very similar to dogs in this way. Not that we actually eat socks, but that we choose to ingest and inhale whatever the world tells us is valuable. We listen to people around us when they tell us that something could make us more important or give us more power. We constantly ingest lies that we were never meant to build our lives on, so much so that it becomes second nature. In the same way, Jesus' disciples wanted to puff themselves up by knowing who Jesus loved most. They followed him around for years, and still had the guts to ask him who is favorite was.

3. When was the last time you chose to inhale a worldly lie? What was that lie and why do you think you felt tempted to believe it?
4. Why do you think it's in our nature as humans to believe the lies we hear in culture and from those around us?

In Matthew 16:5-12, we read about a time that Jesus was in a boat with his disciples. Jesus has just performed a number of amazing miracles, where he fed thousands of people with just a few loaves of bread. The disciples quickly get concerned that they didn't bring enough bread for their trip. They choose to focus on their lack, rather than the miracles Jesus *just* performed. Jesus then reminds them who he is, that as the God of the universe he can give them more than they could ever ask for or imagine. So often, our lens is not on the miracle or the miracle worker. It's on what's missing. But in order to defend ourselves against the lies of the world, we must be surrounded by people who remind us of the miracle.

5. Why do you think the disciples so easily forgot the miracles Jesus had just performed?
6. Do you relate to the disciples in this way? Have you ever been so caught up in what was missing that you forgot about the miracle Jesus performed in your life just days or months ago?

#### What's Next?

The truth is, Jesus meets us in the deepest questions of our lives. He meets us in the midst of doubts, and while we are inhaling the countless lies we encounter in the world. He sees us and celebrates us, and even declares us to be his "tov meod," the best of the best, of the very, very best he has ever made. But what does it look like to live life free of the lies the world tries to feed us, and to live life more like the miracle worker? Jesus is the only one who could take just a few loaves and feed a thousand. And he does that and even more in our lives as well.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, evaluate who's in the boat with you. Are they reminding you of what's missing, or are they pointing you towards the miracle?