

**Covenant Community Groups – Interactive Study Guide
Week of August 31, 2008**

The Essence of Faith: Phillip's Example

1. Read together

- John 6:1-14; Mark 6:33-44

2. Questions:

- Initial thoughts/questions?
- What was Phillip's initial reaction to this "impossible" situation? Why is it such a bad example of faith?
- What is the last seemingly "impossible" situation you've been in?
- How did you get into that situation? Have you ever recognized such a situation as a challenge initiated by Jesus to test your faith?
- How do you react in "impossible" situations? Does recognizing these situations as a test of faith change how you react?
- Before the feeding of the 5,000, what had Phillip seen and experienced? (Mark 1:40; John 2:7-9; Mark 4:39; Mark 5:35-43; Luke 7:14-15; Mark 6:7-13). See page 2 Action Point for additional reflection.
- What have you seen and experienced as you've followed Christ? What difference does that make in your life – especially as you face "impossible" situations?

3. Break into smaller groups of men and women to share and pray

Leader note: the goal of Covenant Community Groups is to provide an environment of spiritual growth and fellowship through reflection, study and application. Do not feel pressured to discuss every question. Instead, be flexible, promote participation, and encourage group members to continue in self-directed study during personal devotionals throughout the week. Each week we will send an Interactive Study Guide. You can choose which one to use depending on the time of the month your group meets.

Encountering God – Encouraging Others – Engaging the World

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What had they learned about Jesus? The disciples had witnessed His authority, power, compassion and wisdom:

- Power to control nature (stilled the sea -- Mk 4:35ff)
- Turned water into wine (Jn 2:1ff)
- Healed paralytic and man w/sickness (Mk 2bb/Jn 5ff)
- Raised the centurions servant from dead (Lk 7:ff) & the little girl from the dead (Mk 5:35ff)
- Cleansed and Brought health to a leper (Mk 1:40ff)
- Had exp. power of His name in casting out demons themselves (Mk 6:7-13)

Action Point: Meditate on these miracles. If you were there, how would you describe in one sentence to someone else His powers. "He has the power to...(w/out saying what He actually did---but explain what he can do)... for example, "make something out of nothing." What should he have Philip said? What would faith say?



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