

Excelling in the Kingdom: Learning to Become a Self-Feeder

God Squad: G2 Study Guide

Key Thought:

Even when we're Under Construction, God sees the Best in us

Let's read through one of the favorite parables that Jesus told:

"Again he said, 'What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.'" [Mark 4:30-32](#)

Can you picture this with me? Jesus is saying that God loves to take the smallest, most insignificant things and turn them into something that provides shelter and blessing for many others. Maybe you feel like that tiny mustard seed who's under construction, with not much to offer, but God sees what ahead. He sees your potential!

Significance:

- God specializes in using what seems small and insignificant
- When we place our lives in God's hands, He can create something far beyond what we imagined
- Kingdom greatness doesn't come from human strength or resources
- What starts small in God's hands can end up blessing many people

Let's Discuss:

We live in a world that constantly tells us we need to be more, have more, do more to matter. But as I've walked with the Lord over the years, I've discovered something that goes against everything our culture teaches - God's greatest work often happens through our greatest weaknesses. I've been thinking a lot about how God sees us versus how we see ourselves, and I believe this study is going to challenge and encourage us in ways we didn't expect.

Understanding the Kingdom and Its Principles

Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough, smart enough, or talented enough to be used by God? Well, I have some incredible news for you! God's Kingdom operates completely differently than our world does. While our culture celebrates the strong, the talented, the wealthy, and the influential, God consistently chooses people just like you and me - the ones who feel weak, insignificant, or overlooked.

I love how God works this way because it shows us that it's not about our strength or our resources. It's about our willingness to trust Him, especially when we feel like we don't have much to offer.

Key Points:

- When we accomplish something significant, we get to point to God and say, "Look what He did!" not "Look what I did!"
- God cares more about our hearts than our bank accounts or achievements
- The journey of faith starts with looking honestly at ourselves and depending on God for results.

The Role of Weakness and Lack in the Kingdom

Here's something that might surprise us - God actually chooses to work through our weaknesses on purpose! Now, don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with having abundance or being blessed materially. But so often, God uses people who feel like they have little to offer because it makes His power come alive to everyone watching.

Key Points:

- When we're honest about our struggles and limitations, we open the door for God to work
- The enemy wants us to focus on what we lack, but God wants to use those areas for His glory
- Real intimacy with God happens when we stop pretending we have it all together
- Discuss ***the Life of Angelo***, as mentioned in the message. How was his life an example?

Turning Things Around on the Enemy

Our perspective changes everything. When we learn to see the best in difficult situations and challenging people, we're actually fighting a spiritual battle. We're refusing to let the enemy keep us focused on the negative.

One key we can discuss - becoming what I call a ***"Self-Feeder"*** spiritually. Just like we need to feed our physical bodies daily, we need to take responsibility for feeding our spirit man. The more we practice this, it will affect our souls (mind, will, emotions), as well as our body. No one else can do this for us, and it's one of the most important disciplines we can develop.

Key Points:

- Daily time with God builds our spiritual strength and resilience
- The "seeds" we plant in our hearts determine what grows in our lives
- Growing spiritually requires both our effort and God's grace working together

Recap: Learning to Excel at Seeing the Best

You know what I've discovered? When we get really good at seeing the best in others and in our circumstances, we're actually turning the tables on the enemy's strategy. He wants us discouraged and focused on everything that's wrong. But when we choose to look for God's hand in our situations, everything changes.

Key Points:

- Community and vulnerability through G2 groups create opportunities for real growth
- Being honest with God about what's missing in our lives actually draws us closer to Him
- This is a lifelong process that requires us to keep depending on God

Understanding Spiritual Sowing

I want you to think about sowing seeds not just in terms of money or tithing, but in every area of your life. Every act of kindness, every moment of encouragement, every prayer - these are all seeds you're planting. And here's the beautiful thing - God cares so much more about your heart behind the action than the size of what you're giving.

Key Points:

- When we give or serve during tough times, we're showing incredible faith in God's provision
- God has this amazing ability to multiply whatever we place in His hands, no matter the size
- Every act of faith is like planting a seed and trusting God for the harvest

The Widow's Two Mites (Mark 12:41-44)

Let me share with you one of the most powerful giving stories in the Bible:

"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.'"

This widow gave just two small coins. But Jesus said she gave more than everyone else! Why? Because she gave from her heart, trusting God with what many would have thought to be small and insignificant.

Key Thoughts and Practical Applications

God Chooses and Uses the Least Expected

Friends, I want you to really hear this - throughout the entire Bible, God consistently picks people who feel weak, small, or overlooked. If you've ever felt like you don't measure up, you're in excellent company! God isn't looking for perfect people; He's looking for available people.

Discussion Questions for Our Group

Let's take some time to really dig into these questions together. Don't feel like you have to have perfect answers - this is about honest sharing and growing together.

1. In what areas of your life do you feel weak, lacking, or insignificant, and how might God want to use those areas for His purposes?
2. How does the data from the “Seeker Friendly” church model, as mentioned in the message, inspire you to be more aggressive in becoming a self-feeder?
3. What steps can you take to become a self-feeder spiritually, and how can you develop the discipline of daily spiritual nourishment?
4. How can you shift your perspective to see the best in challenging situations and turn things around on the enemy in your daily life?