

WEEK 6 - Generosity: Kingdom Vision

Canopy Guide // Fall Focus 2026

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the questions below to kickstart a community-building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.

- What's your favorite memory of someone surprising you by showing up in a big way when you didn't expect it?
- If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing about your neighborhood or street, what would it be?

STUDY GUIDE

Two feeding stories, centuries apart, tell almost the same joke on us.

In 2 Kings 4, a famine has settled over the land, and a man from Baal-shalishah (someone we never hear from again, not a prophet or a leader, just a guy with a bag of groceries) brings Elijah twenty loaves of barley bread. Elisha tells his servant to feed a hundred people with it. The servant pushes back, asking, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" Elisha insists anyway, and there's not just enough—there's leftovers.

Six hundred years later, a boy nobody even bothered to name shows up on a hillside with five barley loaves and two small fish. Andrew mentions the boy and what he has brought almost apologetically: "But what are they among so many people?" Jesus takes what the kid brought anyway, gives thanks, and five thousand people eat until they're full.

Neither story stars the person you'd expect. It isn't the prophet or the disciples. It's the unnamed farmer and unnamed kid. God has a habit of building the kingdom out of contributions everyone considers too small to matter.

This is worth considering as we ask this week's question: what could our neighborhood become if it looked more like the kingdom of God? Kingdom vision doesn't wait for those who have the right qualifications. It multiplies whatever is already in your hand.

Part of what makes that possible is simply paying attention. You can't offer your loaves and fish to a place you've never really looked at. Loving a neighborhood enough to notice its needs and

gifts starts with the slow work of actually seeing the people on the streets around you, rather than driving past them on the way to somewhere else.

And once you're paying attention, the question shifts again. A neighborhood isn't a problem to be solved or a project to be managed—it's already something God loves, already carrying potential that nobody has fully seen yet. We're to join what God is already doing there, offering whatever we've got as raw material for something we couldn't build on our own.

This means that the way we show up matters as much as what we bring. Kingdom change in a place tends to happen less through people parachuting in with solutions, and more through the people who stay, who let the walls between "us" and "them" come down. Through the ones who put whatever they actually have (time, skill, a spare room, a casserole dish) to work for the good of the people who are already there. The people in the neighborhood usually aren't waiting to be rescued. They're waiting to be seen, joined, and given room to lead.

Put it all together with the barley loaves, the boy's basket, attention, presence, showing up for the long haul, and you get a clear picture of a kingdom vision for a neighborhood that isn't a strategic plan handed down by people with more resources. It's God taking whatever ordinary, unimpressive thing that's already in your hands and multiplying it into something that feeds more people than you thought possible.

Scripture to Read:

- 2 Kings 4:42-44
- John 6:1-14

Discussion Questions: *(feel free to pick & choose the questions your group wants to tackle together)*

- Who's someone in your life that God used in a surprising way, someone you wouldn't have expected? What did that teach you?
- What's something small already in your hands (time, a skill, a resource, a relationship) that you've assumed was too small to matter?
- What would it look like for our neighborhood to look more like the kingdom of God? What's one specific step our group could take toward that this fall?

PRAYER

- Pray that God would open our eyes to what's already good and possible in our neighborhood.
- Pray for courage to offer what's in our hands, trusting that God will multiply it.

EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH

- [NEH 2012 Jefferson Lecture by Wendell Berry](#)
- *This Sacred Life: Humanity's Place in a Wounded World* by Norman Wirzba
- *Let Justice Roll Down* by John M. Perkins
- [CCDA Philosophy](#) - Christian Community Development Association