



— Dream Shaping —  
Matthew 14  
Small Group Plan

We are called to be an extension of the heart and hands of Jesus. The Lord wants to shape us into a community formed into the image of Jesus. We will be a transformational church where people of all ages become God-worshipping, self-emptying, Spirit-powered reflections of the resurrected Lord.

The Lord wants us to be missionaries, sharing His message and ministry with our city, our neighbors, and beyond. We will nurture a missionary culture where relationships, worship, ministries and activities draw us deep into the mission of God.

**OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- What am I surrendering when I give someone the power to shape my dreams?
- What would it look like for Jesus to shape our dreams?

**LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

— A JESUS SHAPED DREAM IS MARKED BY CONCERN —

Matthew 14:13-14

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

- Why did crowds always gather when they heard that Jesus was nearby?
- When Jesus “saw” the crowd, what did his compassion actually “see”?

— A JESUS SHAPED DREAM IS MARKED BY CONTACT —

Matthew 14:15-16

<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

- Was it selfish or practical for the disciples to suggest the people find their own food?
- Why did Jesus take someone else’s food problem upon himself to solve?

— **A JESUS SHAPED DREAM IS MARKED BY CONFIDENCE** —

**Matthew 14:17-19a**

<sup>17</sup> “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. <sup>18</sup> “Bring them here to me,” he said. <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

- After all they have seen Jesus do (healings, miracles) why do the disciples focus first on their limitations?
- How/why does Jesus look beyond the limitations?

— **A JESUS SHAPED DREAM IS MARKED BY COOPERATION** —

**Matthew 14:19b**

*Then he gave them to the disciples,  
and the disciples gave them to the people.*

- Jesus responded to the disciples by saying “You give them something to eat” (v. 16).
- In view of their negative, pessimistic outlook, why does he continue to involve them in his ministry?

— **A JESUS SHAPED DREAM IS MARKED BY CONVICTION** —

**Matthew 14:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- Imagine and describe the reaction of the disciples as they each have their own basket (twelve) full of leftovers.
- What is the lesson they have learned ... again?

**USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- What will be the evidence that we have compassionately “seen” people?
- How do you define “compassion”?
- When you see someone struggling with a problem, are you more likely to get involved or steer clear? Explain.
- Do you usually approach obstacles and challenges with a positive or negative outlook?
- Pray for our dream-shaping, that like Jesus, we can “see” with compassion and envision new ways to serve people in the name of our Father.