

ST. ANDREW

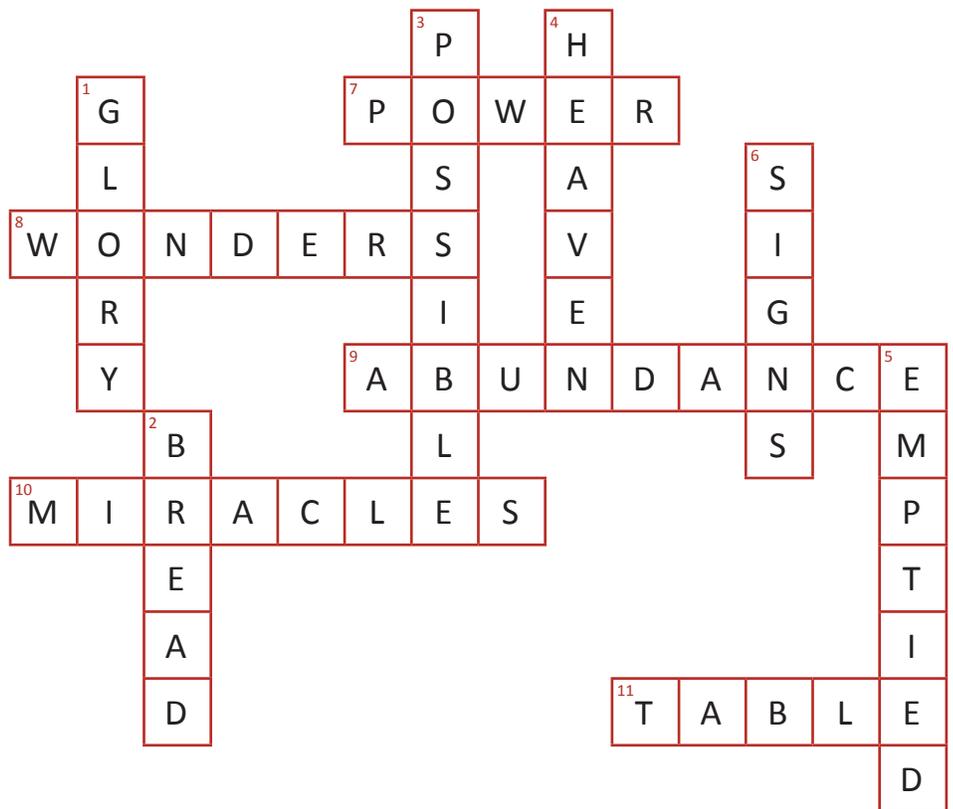
CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- Copies of the downloadable “622 service” and “Prayers & Thanksgivings” booklets
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader’s notes - *note fifth page re ice breaker, you may want multiple copies*
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

ICE BREAKER: CROSSWORD O’ GLORY

As the teens arrive, provide copies of the crossword puzzle (page five of the leader’s notes), and have them see how far they can get in the allotted time. They will need Bibles to look up the references given in the clues. If time allows, take the answers up together, otherwise set the crossword to one side and provide the answer key (to right) at the end of the lesson. Some of the verses will be familiar and others may be obscure. This is intended to act as a teaser demonstrating that our scriptures are filled with many proclamations of God’s power and glory.

FOR SMALLER GROUPS, YOU MAY EITHER HAVE THE GROUPS WORK COOPERATIVELY ON A SINGLE COPY OF THE PUZZLE, OR WORK COMPETITIVELY AS INDIVIDUALS. FOR LARGER GROUPS, TRY DIVIDING THEM UP INTO TEAMS COMPETING TO ANSWER MORE THAN THE OTHER TEAMS BEFORE TIME’S UP.



622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order for service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

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DISCUSSION: SEEING AND BELIEVING

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- Have you ever seen or experienced something you'd describe as a miracle? Share your story.
- On many occasions those in scripture who had witnessed a miracle still didn't "get it". Why do you think that is?
- Read the following quote to your teens and ask them to respond to it (or explain what they think Lewis is getting at):
"There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion ('man's search for God!') suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found Him? We never meant it to come to that! Worse still, supposing He had found us?" – C.S. Lewis

A few things worth pointing out (if they don't otherwise arise during the discussion):

- Many of us probably have stories we can share of "small", "personal" miracles: times we prayed for help or healing which seemed very unlikely, but came after all. Perhaps some of these miracles we see through the eyes of faith, believing that they are gifts from God, where someone else might insist they are merely chance.
- Sometimes, even after we've experienced a "miracle" – or simply experienced what we might call "God reaching into our lives", we can struggle with doubt, forgetting what he has done for us in the past and all that he is able to do. These ideas will be unpacked further in the lesson, so allow your teens to explore the question freely, even if they don't reach a conclusion.
- Perhaps what Lewis is getting at is that human beings like to be in control. As soon as we recognize who God is – all-powerful, all-knowing, omnipresent, able to reach into the natural world that he made and do anything – we might be a bit frightened. These concepts can be too big for us to wrap our heads around, but they also force us to recognize that we are not in control. Yet, as we draw nearer we come to know that God is not only powerful, but that he also loves us, and this love "casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).

THE LESSON: JOHN 6

The first part of the lesson (below) can be read aloud. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

St. Andrew was a fisherman of Galilee and one of the first disciples called to follow Jesus. He and his brother Simon Peter would have been there at Cana to witness Jesus' first miracle, and he went on to witness many, many more, eventually taking his place as an apostle and martyr.

One of the few instances where the Gospels single out St. Andrew is in the story of Jesus' miraculous feeding of 5,000. The incident is recorded in all four Gospel accounts, which is also somewhat unusual. St. John's Gospel takes the trouble to give us a few more details than the other Gospels. He wants his readers to know when and where this miracle occurred – firmly rooted in human history and geography. He also wants his readers to see how this miracle ties in with Jesus' teaching.

As we read the narrative keep in mind that St. Andrew and the other disciples were only human – like us – and yet, as believers who followed Jesus right to the end of their lives, they remain strong examples for us in our faith.

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Refer to John 6:1-14.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS' NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they've just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- Why do you think Jesus began a conversation about feeding the enormous crowd?
- How do you think you might have responded if you'd been one of the disciples?
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

A few notes and reflections for reference:

- *Verse 6 tells us that Jesus had a plan in mind but wanted to test his disciples. All along the way, Jesus was teaching them. They had seen the miracle at Cana, but instead of placing their confidence in Jesus' ability to do something similar here, they begin to scramble for their own – inadequate – solutions.*
- *It can be easy for us to look back and imagine that we would have had more faith than the disciples, but truthfully, most of us struggle to trust in God's power and love for our own lives today. Both Philip and Andrew make an effort – a feeble, bewildered effort – but an effort nonetheless. Then, when Jesus gives instructions, they obey and become witnesses to something miraculous.*
- *As Christians, we believe that Jesus is God incarnate. St. John's Gospel goes to great lengths to show us that this was central to Jesus' claims. As the Creator of the universe, he had power over his creation. We see this in many of the signs he performed – power over the wind and sea, power over death itself, power to "spread a table in the wilderness" (Psalm 78:19). Jesus also knew his disciples. He knew that they did not yet fully understand who he was and the power that he had. Their thinking was too small. But Jesus continued to engage with them, teaching them with words and actions.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER](http://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER).)

Spend some time reflecting on the benediction from Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen." Have you, like the disciples so many years ago, lost sight of all that God is able to accomplish? Ask him to strengthen your faith in his power and your trust in his love.

- AND/OR -

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Take some time to pray through the following collect.

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay: Grant unto us all, that we, being called by thy holy word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE, P. 260)

CLOSING PRAYERS (622 AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE “PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS” SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU’RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

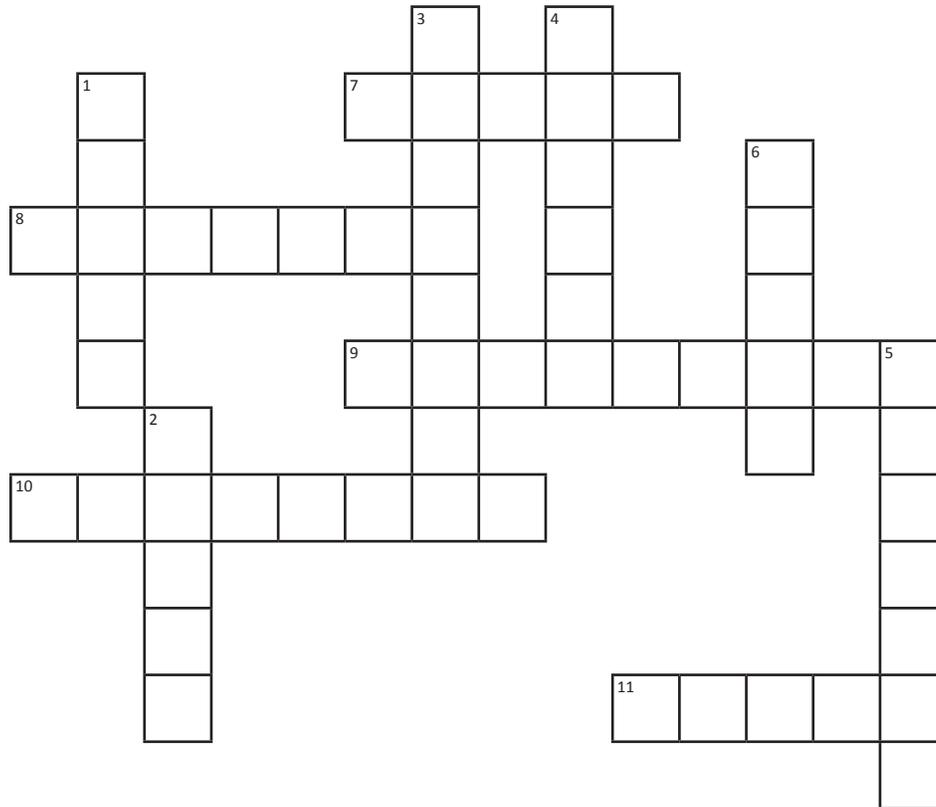
Then finish with the “Grace”, the final prayer in the booklet.

JOHN 6: HOW TO FEED FIVE THOUSAND

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

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CROSSWORD O' GLORY



DOWN

1. Declare his _____ among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples. (1 Chronicles 16:24)
2. I am going to rain _____ from heaven for you. (Exodus 16:4)
3. For God all things are _____. (Matthew 19:26)
4. The Lord your God is indeed God in _____ above and on earth below. (Joshua 2:11)
5. The jar of meal will not be _____. (1 Kings 17:14)
6. Jesus did this, the first of his _____, in Cana of Galilee. (John 2:11)

ACROSS

7. The LORD said to Moses, 'Is the LORD's _____ limited?' (Numbers 11:23)
8. The Lord displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and _____. (Deuteronomy 6:22)
9. They feast on the _____ of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. (Psalm 36:8)
10. They forgot what he had done, and the _____ that he had shown them. (Psalm 78:11)
11. Can God spread a _____ in the wilderness? (Psalm 78:19)