Only God
Pastor Dave Patterson

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group’s goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

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**[James 4:8]**

*Come close (draw near) to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.*

**[Jeremiah 29:12]**

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,*” declares the LORD

**[Hebrews 11:6]**
And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

[2 Kings 4:1-7]

One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, “My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the LORD. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves.”

“What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.

And Elisha said, “Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. And not just a few—all you can get. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled.”

So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim!

“Bring me another jar,” she said to one of her sons.

“There aren’t any more!” he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.

When she told the man of God what had happened, he said to her, “Now sell the olive oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on what is left over.”

3 questions to ask yourself in times of desperation:

1. Where does your desperation drive you?
2. What is your “nothing, except…” that you can bring to God?

[2 Kings 4:2]
“What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.

3. What is your ridiculous moment that will release the miraculous?

[2 Corinthians 4:6-7]
For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.
But we have this treasure in jars of clay (earthen vessels) to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Get in the conversation.
1. Have you made any New Years resolutions for 2018? What are they and how will you stay on track?
2. Have you ever tasted before? What spiritual significance did it make in your life? What are you seeking God for during this next fast?
3. Have you ever had an “only God” moment?

Take it a step further.
4. Who in your group is ready to step out and lead a group next semester? Invite your entire group to attend the TFH Group training on Thursday January 18th.
5. Where does your desperation drive you? What are the challenges we face when depending on God during desperate times?
6. How can we effectively look at our times of weakness and see them as opportunities to do the ridiculous for God to perform the miraculous? Dream a little, what might God do when you respond with ridiculous faith to a moment that “only God” can take care of.

Take home.
7. Spend the next week asking God what it is you already have (your “nothing… except”) that He is asking you to give to Him to set up the “only God” moment.