



Kill the Craving

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Focus We all have cravings but having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the only thing that will truly satisfy us. When we submit our cravings to the Lord and develop a hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be satisfied by God's goodness.

Fun What other language do you wish you could speak and why?

Review Key Scriptures: Numbers 11:4–15; James 1:14; Matthew 5:13; Psalm 23:5

1. Remove the rabble.

The easiest way for us to miss what God is doing is to get wrapped up in what He isn't doing. Numbers 11 mentions that a disorderly crowd of people, described as rabble, followed the Israelites when they left Egypt. The rabble brought their ways of life and perspectives with them, influencing the Israelites to crave the things they had left behind and be ungrateful for their newfound freedom and God's provision. We must ask ourselves if there is anything in our lives causing us to crave something that isn't from God.

2. Inventory your words.

Our words reveal what is in our hearts. The Bible tells us to do everything without complaining and arguing. We need to inventory our words to know whether they are aligned with God's purposes for our lives and the lives of others. The words we speak can direct the courses of our lives toward good or bad. Instead of complaining to God and others, we should show our thankfulness to God in prayer and speak words of life. Our words can be like honey to those who hear them (Psalm 119:103), and they can be salt to unbelievers, helping them crave a relationship with God (Matthew 5:13).

3. Feast at God's table.

God doesn't want us to let our cravings lead us to a spiritual grave. We open ourselves up for destruction when we let the cravings of our souls rule us. God wants us to crave the feast He has prepared for us. We can feast at the table of the Lord because of the finished work of Jesus. God blesses us when we hunger and thirst for righteousness. When eternity is on our minds daily, we are encouraged to focus on the things of God.

Group Dynamics Idea Trust is a vital factor in successfully leading a team. Without the trust developed in one-on-one relationships, empowerment will never happen. Failure to empower is one of the key reasons teams are ineffective. Intentionally empower group members to serve in your group.

Discuss

1. What are some things that can become rabble in our lives?
2. Why do we sometimes allow rabble to enter our lives?
3. God provided manna for the Israelites. In what ways has God provided for you?
4. How does forgetting about God's provision prevent us from trusting Him?
5. Read Philippians 2:14. How does complaining affect us and our environment?
How can we be intentional about guarding what comes out of our mouths?
6. Read Matthew 5:13. What are some ways we as Christians are like salt to others? How does complaining cause us to lose our saltiness?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Is there rabble in your life that needs to be removed? Are your words edifying? Do you need to spend more time feasting at God's table? Take time to be quiet and respond to what the Holy Spirit is saying.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God wants us to remove the rabble in our lives.
- God wants us to be aware of our words.
- God wants us to hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please help us to hear Your voice. Thank You for Your love and goodness. Thank You that You promise to never leave us or forsake us. We submit our cravings to You. Help us to walk in righteousness and humility. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Jesus influenced the lives of His followers as a servant leader. Value both relationships and results in your small group, and model servant leadership. If you are unaware of the needs in your group, take time to talk to the members about needs they may have or needs they have noticed.