

TALK IT OVER

RIPPLE EFFECT | PART 2

7 JUNE 2026

NOTES TO LEADERS

Nation Changers Month 2026 is underway, our annual opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need across the Upper Highway area. This year:

- 254 projects to get involved in
- 900 volunteers needed
- R1.6 million total cost (Over R1 million has already been raised)

Encourage your LifeGroup to take this on together: Which project grabs your attention? <https://nationchangers.app/>

SCRIPTURES

JOHN 1:41-42

⁴¹ *The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.*

MATTHEW 10:32

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in Heaven....."

MATTHEW 25:31 – 40 (ESV)

³¹ *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

³³ *And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

³⁵ *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'* ³⁷...

⁴⁰ *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

START TALKING

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
- What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. Read John 1:41-42. Steph pointed out that Andrew could never have known the ripple effect of simply bringing his brother to Jesus. Why do you think we so easily underestimate the small, faithful things we do?
2. Steph's title was "5 + 2 = 5,000 + leftovers", i.e., the concept that God multiplies the little we bring in faith. In what situation do you find it hardest to believe your "little bit" could make a difference?
3. Steph listed several reasons we hold back from bringing people to Jesus (see list in notes). Which of these do you recognise most in yourself?

START SHARING

1. Steph drew a parallel between why we hesitate to share Jesus and why we hesitate to engage the poor, naming discomfort as the one God was underlining. When has discomfort held you back, and how do we overcome it?
2. Andrew's whole ministry was quietly bringing people to Jesus: his brother, a boy with his lunch, some curious Greeks. Who first brought you towards Jesus, and who can we bring to Jesus?
3. Steph said one of the most powerful things we carry is the ability to make someone feel seen. When last did you feel unseen, and what can you change to make sure those around you feel "Seen"

START PRAYING

1. Pray that God would free us from the pressure of thinking we must save people ourselves, and help us simply make ourselves available to bring them to Jesus.
2. Pray for eyes to see the poor, the needy and the overlooked around us, and for courage to step towards them even when it is uncomfortable.

START DOING

This week, ask God to bring one person to mind, whether someone to invite towards Jesus or someone in need, and take one small step towards them. Remember the five and the two: bring what you have, and trust God to multiply it. Remember that we can also bring the love of Jesus through some of our Nation Changers projects. Why don't you, as a group, choose a project and help those who feel unseen or forgotten to be seen and loved the way Christ intended it.

TALK IT OVER

SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Steph continued our Nation Changers series with a message built around an interesting equation: $5 + 2 = 5000 + \text{leftovers}$...

That is the heart of the series. In the world, five plus two equals seven, but in God's Kingdom, when we bring the little we have in faith, He multiplies it into something far greater. We often think we are too small to make a difference, yet it is the five loaves and the two fish that fed the 5,000 (with leftovers). God is at work calling the world to Himself, and He invites ordinary people to join Him. Our small acts of obedience are like a stone dropped in water: the stone disappears, but the ripples carry on, and in God's world, that ripple moves through the hearts of people.

In John 1:41-42 we read: *"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah'... And he brought him to Jesus."* Andrew could never have known what that small act would lead to. Simon became Peter: a disciple, a worker of miracles, the first to take the Gospel beyond the Jewish people, and a leader in the early church. Andrew simply brought his brother to Jesus. It was not a miracle in itself, just obedience and faithfulness.

We might ask whether Peter would have found Jesus anyway, since God is sovereign. Scripture does not say. What it tells us is that Andrew became part of Peter's story, Peter became part of Andrew's, and both became part of Jesus' story. God draws ordinary people in, and His sovereignty is not a reason to step back, but rather the reason we can participate with confidence. Little is written about Andrew, but each time he appears, he brings someone to Jesus: his brother, the boy with the loaves and fish, and some curious Greeks. He had no public ministry like Peter's, but a fruitful personal one. That is our invitation too.

But often we have excuses:

Reasons we are cautious to bring people to Jesus

- We are too busy, not so much for time as for the mental space to notice the opportunities God puts in our path.
- We think it is not our gifting, but this is a matter of heart, not gifting.
- We have tried before, and it did not seem to work, forgetting that God is the one who reveals Himself. Andrew did not convince Peter; he simply brought him.

- We do not feel equipped, though we get better the more we do it.
- We fear rejection.
- We treat our faith as private. It is deeply personal, but not private: *"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven"* (Matthew 10:32).
- We take the burden of getting people saved onto ourselves. We cannot save anyone. Our responsibility is to make ourselves available and to bring people to Jesus; the saving is His work, and it often takes time, part of a ripple that may only reach someone years later.

These excuses run closely parallel to why we hold back from the poor and the needy.

Reasons we hold back from the poor and needy

- We are too busy.
- We think others are called to it.
- We have helped before, and it did not seem to work.
- The need is too great, and our little bit cannot make a difference, which is the five and the two all over again: it is not on us to solve what only God can solve, only to bring what we can.
- It makes us uncomfortable.

That discomfort is real, but we cannot let it make us passive. We acknowledge it and say, "Lord, even though I am uncomfortable, I am still going to take a step forward." One of the most powerful things we carry is the ability to make people feel seen. We may not be able to fix everything, but we can restore a sense of worth and dignity, letting a person know they are valued and not forgotten.

Steph closed with Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-40 (ESV). *When the Son of Man comes in glory, He will separate the nations as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you... For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."* These are practical needs, but also emotional ones: the stranger welcomed, the lonely visited, the isolated drawn in. When the righteous ask when they did these things, the King answers, *"as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."* As we go out to the least, we do it for Jesus Himself.