

Discussion Guide

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Stepping Up

Pastor Jackie Groves

Main Idea

Trusting God transforms our limitations into extraordinary blessings. Through the story of the boy with five loaves and two fish, we see how surrendering what seems insignificant to Jesus leads to overflow and miracles. Join us as we explore Romans 15:13 and Ephesians 3:20, discovering how God's abundance far exceeds our expectations. Be inspired to embrace your season and trust in the God of EVEN MORE.

Anchor Verse:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13 NIV)

In this famous biblical miracle, a boy's small contribution of loaves and fish was transformed by Jesus into a feast with leftovers, highlighting how even seemingly insignificant offerings can become significant in the hands of God. The focus here is on the boy's willingness to offer what he had, unlike others who doubted the value of their contributions. This illustrates that every season of life, whether good or bad, holds purpose and can deepen your faith. The challenge is to keep stepping up and trusting, regardless of the difficulties we face.

Read: Mark 6:30-44; Matthew 14:14

God's Blessing Comes When I follow His Lead

This kid's opportunity to be involved in Jesus' miracle was right in front of him. He could have easily followed the leading of his stomach.

Read: Psalm 16:11

What is stealing your attention?

God's Blessing Isn't Limited By My Limitations

God can use and strengthen anything surrendered to Him. If you look for God's approval, your weaknesses become opportunities for His power.

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Joel 3:10

How can embracing our weaknesses and limitations lead us to recognize and experience God's strength and blessings in our lives? How might our perspective change if we focus more on seeking God's approval rather than the approval of others?

God's Blessing Is Stewarded Through Accountability

Good things are best shared, and so are the challenging. We are better together.

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. Mark 6:39

In what ways can accountability and shared support within a community enhance our ability to steward and experience God's blessings? How can we apply the principle of "better together" in our own lives to help each other navigate both successes and challenges?

God's Blessing Is Multiplied Only When You Put It In Jesus' Hands

God will multiply what you thought was insignificant if you surrender it.

Read: Romans 15:13

What steps can we take to release control and trust in His ability to transform what seems insignificant into something miraculous?

SUMMARY

Jesus performs the miracle of feeding 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fish, demonstrating His power to multiply what seems insignificant when placed in His hands. Despite the disciples' initial doubt and the crowd's urgent needs, Jesus uses the boy's small offering, showing that God can transform and bless even the smallest contributions. This story underscores that every season in life is significant and that God's blessings overflow when we trust Him fully.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Read through Mark 6:30-44 again and examine for yourself what is in your “basket” to offer the Lord, where you need to trust, and where you need to surrender.
2. Reflect on how community should play a role in the process of surrender and accountability. Determine how you can follow the example in the story to
3. We invite you to offer your “loaves and fish” in this season of significance. Lead or Join a HC Group! Visit [Hopecity.com/groups](https://hopecity.com/groups) for more information.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Two Truths and a Fabrication

Objective: To foster deeper connections and facilitate personal sharing within the group. This game encourages participants to reveal interesting or lesser-known facts about themselves, helping others learn more about each individual in a fun and interactive way. It also promotes active listening and enhances group cohesion by creating opportunities for conversations and laughter.

How to Play: Each person shares two true statements and one false statement about themselves. The group guesses which statement is the lie.

1. Ask each participant to come up with three statements about themselves: two that are true and one that is false. Encourage them to choose statements that are interesting or surprising to make the game more engaging.
2. Have each person take turns sharing their three statements with the group, without revealing which one is the lie.
3. After someone shares their statements, the rest of the group discusses and guesses which of the three statements is the lie.
4. The person then reveals which statement was false and provides a brief explanation or story behind the truths, if desired.
5. Repeat the process until everyone has had a chance to share and guess.