

*Matthew 16:7-11 NLT - 7 At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread. 8 Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, "You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? 9 Don't you understand even yet? Don't you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up? 10 Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up? 11 Why can't you understand that I'm not talking about bread? So again I say, 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'"*

When Jesus sends us to go to all the world, we need to see people with compassion and put our faith in God's power to accomplish what is needed, no matter what we have to offer. When we offer what we have to God, and trust Him to multiply it to meet needs, we grow our faith and give Him glory.

*Sometimes faith starts with just a little. Has God challenged you to take a step of faith? What are your loaves and fishes? What do you have faith enough to give to God for Him to multiply? If you are facing needs that you can't meet, what steps can you take to exercise your faith in God's ability to meet the needs you that can't meet on your own?*

## **WRAP-UP**

Jesus sent his disciples out on a mission; to bring the Good News of the Kingdom, heal the sick, and set the captives free. He demonstrated this in his own life when he welcomed the needy, taught them about the Kingdom of God and healed them. Then he fed them. But he gave them much more than fish and bread. He said "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus has the power to meet any and every need. And it only takes a little faith for us to offer up what we have so that He can multiply it.

## **Memory Verse**

*1 One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. 2 Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

*- Luke 9:1-2 NLT*

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

\_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge- Offer your "loaves and fishes" to Jesus this week and see how He multiplies them.*

# **"You Give Them Something to Eat"**

## **Farm to Table #3**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Sometimes we find that Jesus hosted a pretty big crowd – like he did at Bethsaida when he fed 5000. This miracle was told in all four of the Gospels. Most of us know the story- five loaves, two fish and lots of leftovers! But did you remember that he told the disciples to feed the people before he multiplied the loaves and fish? What would you do if you were facing a hungry crowd and being told "You give them something to eat."?

## **Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)**

What is your "go to" meal for a big crowd?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

### **1. What Do You Have to Give**

*Luke 9:1-2, 10-12 NLT - 1 One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. 2 Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.... 10 When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. 11 But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick. 12 Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."*

At the beginning of this chapter in Luke's gospel there is a significant but subtle change.

*How does Luke refer to the twelve in verse 1? What does Jesus send them to do? How does Luke refer to the twelve in verse 10?*

The term apostle means "one sent forth". So, they had returned as apostles and quietly slipped away with Jesus. But the crowds followed.

*How did Jesus react to the crowds? What did He do for them? Isn't this what He sent the apostles to do? How did the twelve react to the crowd?*

Jesus taught with more than words, He taught with actions. Each Gospel writer gives us a slightly different perspective on what happened.

*Luke 9:13 NLT - 13 But Jesus said, "You feed them." "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?"*

*Matthew 14:16-17 NLT - 16 But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary--you feed them." 17 "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.*

*Mark 6:37-38 NLT - 37 But Jesus said, "You feed them." "With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!" 38 "How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out." They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."*

*John 6:5-9 NLT - 5 Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" 6 He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" 8 Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. 9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"*

*What does John tell us was the reason Jesus asked Philip where to buy bread?*

Philip was trying to rely on logic and his natural resources to provide the bread these people needed. He did the math and came up with a figure, 200 denarii, which they didn't have.

When God charges us with a seemingly impossible task, we probably do what Philip did. On the other hand, Andrew offered the only thing he could find, a young boy's loaves and fish.

*Try completing a few scenarios in two ways. First, how would we respond like Philip, and then how can we respond like Andrew?*

*-God prompts you to witness to an unsaved colleague at work.*

*-You are asked to consider going on a mission trip with The Jesus Film to Ecuador.*

*-The offering plate is being passed to you, but you just lost your job.*

## **2. What Can Jesus Do with What You Offer**

So up to this point, Jesus sent the disciples, now apostles, to preach the Kingdom and heal the sick. But when they returned, they wanted to avoid people. And when people did find them, it's Jesus who taught about the Kingdom and healed the sick. The twelve "disciples" wanted to send the people away because they didn't have enough to meet their needs. These twelve still had a lot to learn about being apostles.

*John says Jesus was "testing" Philip when he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?". What kind of test do you think this was? Do you think Philip passed the test?*

If Philip had studied the scriptures, he would have known about Elisha feeding a hundred people with twenty barley loaves and a bag of grain.

*2 Kings 4:42-44 NLT - 42 One day a man from Baal-shalishah brought the man of God a sack of fresh grain and twenty loaves of barley bread made from the first grain of his harvest. Elisha said, "Give it to the people so they can eat." 43 "What?" his servant exclaimed. "Feed a hundred people with only this?" But Elisha repeated, "Give it to the people so they can eat, for this is what the LORD says: Everyone will eat, and there will even be some left over!" 44 And when they gave it to the people, there was plenty for all and some left over, just as the LORD had promised.*

God had already shown that He was able to take a small offering and turn it into an abundance through Elisha. How much more could he do through Jesus? This might be the lesson Philip needed to learn. Maybe we need to learn it too.

*Where else in the scriptures have you seen God provide abundantly when it looked like there wasn't enough? When in your own life has God provided for you in ways that amazed you?*

## **3. It's Not About the Bread**

When Jesus fed the 5000, he gave them more than loaves and fish. Jesus had compassion and met their needs on every level.

*How did he meet their spiritual needs? physical needs? emotional needs?*

Sometimes what is needed is not measured in material terms. The disciples often looked at the literal meaning of what Jesus said, but missed the spiritual significance. (see Mat 16:7-11)