

THE LESSON OF THE LOAVES

"Jesus soon saw a great crowd of people climbing the hill, looking for Him. Turning to Philip, He asked, 'Philip, where can we buy bread to feed all these people?' He was testing Philip, for He already knew what He was going to do." John 6:5-6

Lesson #1: The yardstick lesson

Do not measure a problem or challenge according to your own abilities

"Philip replied, 'It would take a small fortune to feed them!'" John 6:7

God puts us in impossible situations to stretch our undeveloped **faith**

God puts us in impossible situations to strengthen our eternal **hope**

God puts us in impossible situations to show His incredible **love**

Lesson #2: The scales lesson

Little in the hands of Jesus becomes much

"Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. 'There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?'" John 6:8-9

"Tell everyone to sit down,' Jesus ordered. So all of them--the men alone numbered five Thousand--sat down on the grassy slopes. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and passed them out to the people. Afterward He did the same with the fish. And they all ate until they were full." John 6:10-11

How God makes our "little" into His "much"

"I'll conquer the Midianites with these three hundred!' the Lord told Gideon. 'Send all the others home!'" Judges 7:7

"So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. He did not even have a sword in his hand." 1 Samuel 17:50

God **reduces** our resources

God **magnifies** our need

Someone **trusts** God with what little they have

God **uses** the little we have to show how great He is

Lesson #3: The ledger sheet lesson

Every encounter with a problem or challenge can bring an increase

"Now gather the leftovers,' Jesus told His disciples, 'so that nothing is wasted.' There were only five barley loaves to start with, but twelve baskets were filled with the pieces of bread the people did not eat!" John 6:12-13

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
Luke 6:38

"And He climbed aboard the boat with them, and the wind dropped. They were scared out of their wits. They had not had the sense to learn the lesson of the loaves. Even that miracle had not opened their eyes to see who He was." Mark 6:51-52