



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Twelve Take-Home Boxes!

**Focus Verses:** <sup>40</sup> And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. <sup>41</sup> And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

**Lesson Text:** Mark 6:30-44

**Truth About God:** God wants to involve us when He works miracles.

**Truth For My Life:** I will serve God and allow Him to minister to others through me.

In this lesson, we find Jesus calling for His disciples to demonstrate hospitality to the crowd gathered on the lakeshore. He taught them to honor those who made sacrifices to come to their meetings and to repay them with kindness and provisions. The resulting effect of their hospitality produced another jaw-dropping miracle at the hands of Jesus.

The disciples returned from their missionary journeys, and a hungry multitude gathered. The crowd gathered along the lake and were spilling over the hillside when Jesus and the disciples made landfall. Rather than rebuke them or send them away. Jesus was touched by their needs, seeing them as sheep without a shepherd. He began teaching them along the shore.

As the hours grew long, the disciples were weary and concerned for their Master. They asked Jesus if they should send the people away to find food and places to rest. Jesus' response was unexpected. He said, "**You feed them.**" There were over five thousand men plus women and children, the disciples recognized it was beyond their means to supply even a little food for each one. Andrew said, "*There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?*" And Jesus said, "*Make the men sit down*" (John 6:9-10).

The disciples organize the crowd into separate groups, between fifty and one hundred in each for a miraculous provision. Jesus simply took the five loaves and the two fishes blessed them, gazing into the heavens. Baskets full of bread and fish were passed among the groups of people. There was more than enough for everyone to be filled and satisfied. After the miracle there were twelve baskets left over. The disciples left with something extra, a material reminder of this bountiful blessing.

God's blessings come when we willingly devote our meager possessions, gifts, and talents to God for His service. The answer to reaching our rapidly growing world is in the Master's multiplication. Our little truly can be much in God's hands. Whatever our gift or sacrifice, let us give it in full confidence that Jesus will use it to match the mission.

When the need is presented and we give generously, we will never lack the finances or be deficient in personnel to fulfill the commission. This is Kingdom work, and when we embrace the mission, the Spirit works through our efforts to accomplish greater things than we can imagine. Ephesians 3:20 declares: "*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.*"

We often see miracles in small steps of obedience. Faith initiates action even when we cannot see the outcome when we take Jesus at His word, pray a simple prayer, speak a simple sermon, encourage a needy person with a simple passage of Scripture, or speak a simple word of faith, incredible things happen. Unexpected miracles occur when we simply follow Jesus' teaching and speak His Word with confidence.

Trust in God does not require us to know the outcome or how it will all work out. Just preparing for the miraculous is an act of faith. We can do the simple things and get ready for the greater things we only dream of. If we can place our meager efforts into the hands of our mighty Savior. He can multiply our offering to minister to the multitude. Jesus ministers through us to reach the world He loves. He would not have called us if it were impossible.