



**WORD**

<sup>8</sup>Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup>"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. <sup>11</sup>Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

JOHN 6:8-11 (READ THE WHOLE STORY AT JOHN 6:5-14.)

**WHAT**

The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Why does giving have to be filled with joy? What happens when we follow God and give generously?

**1 God can multiply what we give.**

<sup>9</sup>"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. JOHN 6:9,10

The only food available in an assembly of 5,000 hungry men plus women and children was a boy's lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. But in Jesus' hands, that small lunch fed every single person, and they even had leftovers! God can multiply anything we offer Him just as He did with the boy's lunch. Tell of a time when God multiplied your resources to meet a pressing need. What did this do to your faith?

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**2 The needs of other people are met when we give.**

<sup>16</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. <sup>17</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

LUKE 9:16,17

Jesus gave the food to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied! Whenever we give, we have an opportunity to be used by God to meet the needs of others, God augments the little that we have to bless more people. Give examples of how God can use us as channels of blessing. What does being a channel of blessing do to us?

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**3 We are blessed when we give.**

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" ACTS 20:35

We get a greater blessing when we give than when we are on the receiving end. Even modern-day psychology proves that giving leads to more lasting feelings of happiness and well being. In giving, we also receive—a channel is never empty! Enumerate the blessings promised in God's Word about giving.

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