

Jesus on the Issues

questions
future helplessness
faith
significance
uncertainty

A Lesson on Faith

READ Mark 6:30-44

IMAGINE what this day was like for the disciples. They had been so busy all day they didn't even have time to eat. Finally, they left anticipating some rest and a meal, but it wasn't to be. Have you ever experienced a day like that? Maybe you had a hard day at work, and you're looking forward to resting at home only to find out

- ...your child has two hours of homework they need help with.
- ...a family member or friend is sick and needs your support.
- ...a pipe burst and your basement is flooded.
- ...you lost someone you loved.

The disciples were running on empty and Jesus asked them to feed 5000 people. They reacted as you and I would also react, "Are you serious?" But Jesus was gentle with them, as He is with us, and just asked them to find what they can. They came back with very little, and they gave it to God and thanked Him for the little He had provided. God produced something miraculous out of that little gift. Have you ever had a miracle like that? Have you ever been running on empty but God provided

- ...patience to help your child with homework.
- ...love to care for a person who is ill.
- ...energy and wisdom to deal with a crisis that comes up.
- ...peace to help with the loss of a loved one.

DESCRIBE how that small miracle has strengthened your faith. **SPEND** some time recognizing these small moments and **THANK** God for His care for you.

Testing Faith

READ Mark 6:45-56

So often, even after we've seen how God provides for us, we encounter yet another problem and our memory of God's provision is lost. We forget so easily how He loves us and gifts us abundantly in our difficulties. You may have reacted instead with anxiousness, anger, insecurity, lashing out at others, or addictive behaviors. **CONFESS** some ways in which you've missed His presence in the middle of hard circumstances. **ASK** God to help you the next time a problem arises.

Exercising Faith

READ Mark 8:10; Acts 9:36-41; Mark 15:42-47

NOTE the resources God used in miraculous ways.

"What is that in your hand?"

Exodus 4:2b

CONSIDER memorizing the Exodus 4:2b verse. Everything we have is from God. **NOTICE** this week the circumstances in your life where God may be calling you to share. **REMEMBER** God is always faithful to bless your YES. **THINK** about some resources you have, big or small, that you can offer God for His use.

- ~ An hour of your time
- ~ A blanket
- ~ A meal
- ~ A smile and a little encouragement
- ~ A spare Bible
- ~ Leadership
- ~ Childcare for a single mom
- ~ A vehicle to borrow or to share a ride
- ~ Your home

What have you given in the past that God has been able to use?

CELEBRATE these moments with God and others today.

PRAY—God, thank you for inviting me into Your mission and letting me be a part of Your story. Continue to open my heart and my hands to offer You these small things to be multiplied miraculously. Fill my heart with wonder and awe and love for You and others. Bring peace and hope with these open hands.