

God's Economy is Abundant, Not Scarce

A Kingdom of God perspective shifts our thinking from scarcity to abundance, from focusing on problems to seeing possibilities because of faith God's goodness and power. This week's story illustrates this shift in perspective, and how little can become much in God's hands.

1 - Thinking About God's Faithfulness - *October is upon us, so we should talk about Pastor Scott's favorite baseball team - the 1988 Los Angeles Dodgers (Kirk Gibson, Orel Hershiser, etc.) Nobody gave them a chance against the mighty Oakland A's in the '88 World Series, but they beat the odds with grit and belief in each other. Do you have a favorite "underdog" sports team or story?*

2 - Watch the Video for Week 3 with Pastor Scott

3 - Read & Discuss the sermon: The Feeding of the 5,000 (and 12!) -

- **Read John 6:1-13** - This passage has profound insights for us! As you read or listen to it read out loud, consider:
 - *How does Jesus interact with the disciples? He feeds the crowd of people, but what does He want them to learn?*
 - *How do the disciples respond? What are their concerns?*
 - *What might the boy with the lunch be thinking as this plays out?*
 - *What character do you most identify with, and why?*
- **Context is helpful when we read the Bible**, so here's a few insights:
 - *Jesus has the crowd sit in groups on the grass, the way a shepherd would feed a large flock. John wants us to understand Jesus as the shepherd in **Psalm 23 & John 10:11-13**. Read those passages together.*
 - *Passover is the season of the barley harvest. This miracle takes place on the "other side of the lake", the Gentile side. In Scripture, barley often refers to Gentiles, while wheat refers to Jews. John notes the boy had barley loaves - is that symbolic in Jesus' ministry to Gentiles in the story?*
 - *The bread in this story also leads into Jesus' teaching about Himself as the "**Bread of Life**" in **John 6:25-58**. Your group can read this passage together, or later on your own.*
 - *The disciples are skeptical at first, but pick up entire baskets of leftovers at the end. How many baskets? How many disciples?*
- **Share how this story speaks to a situation in your own life today...**
- **Pray for each other! Record some prayer requests from your group here to remember to pray through the week:**

Spiritual Formation Tools

On week 1 you received two tools to use for your LIFE Group experience:

- **The Spiritual Health Inventory**
- **The Rule of Life chart**

Pastor Scott mentioned these in the video, if you were able to review these in the past week, share with your group what insights the Inventory provided for you. If you haven't reviewed these tools yet, take some time this week so we can use these insights in the weeks ahead to grow closer to God and to each other!

