

2022



THANKFUL FOR PROVISION

FROM "THANKFUL" SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

It's Week 3 of the "Thankful" sermon series and we examine the miracle of Jesus feeding 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. This story has been told many times and typically, the focus is on how God fed so many with so little. Instead, we will look at the story from the point of view on how the blessing was released. From a bag to 12 baskets remaining. *Thankful for... provision.*

BE THANKFUL LIKE A CHILD

Luke 18:17 NIV - [17] Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

- Learn to be grateful like children. When God blesses you, show Him your gratitude and release a "Thank You."
- When we begin to thank God and release what He has given us, it makes room for Him to give us more.

When you reflect on the things that God has done for you, what does your gratitude look like?

GOD IS THE PROVIDER

Philippians 4:19 KJV - "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

- Everything you lack God will provide for you.
- God is the source and provides the resources (e.g. your job, degree, connections, and more).

What resource have you treated like the source?

YOU ARE THE RECIPIENT

Psalms 23:1 NIV - The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

- Your increase is not just in materialistic gain, but in the fruit of the spirit.

THINGS THAT WE DO NOT LACK

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22-23)

Love	<u>Generosity</u>
Joy	Faithfulness
Peace	Gentleness
Patience	Self-Control
Kindness	

THE CROSSROAD

Proverbs 11:24-25 NLT - [24] Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. [25] The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

- At the crossroads you can hold on to what you have or release it.
- Every time you pour on others your cup will be filled.

BIBLICAL CHARACTERS WHO RELEASED WHAT THEY HAD

- The woman with the issue of blood RELEASED faith and was healed.
- The widow woman RELEASED her oil and was able to pay off her debt and start a business.
- Hezekiah RELEASED a prayer and God heard it and added 15 years to his life.
- Peter RELEASED his past and became a follower of Christ.
- Jehoshaphat told the children of Israel to RELEASE their praise and God caused an ambush in the camp of the enemy and gave them victory.

What are you willing to release?

IF YOU HOLD IT YOU'LL LOSE EVERYTHING. BUT, IF YOU RELEASE IT YOU'LL GAIN EVERYTHING.

RELEASING YOUR PROVISIONS FROM THE PROVIDER

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NLT - [10] For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. [11] Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

- God will increase what He's already given you, but you have to release it. You will have enough to be a blessing.
- God will use you to get a praise out of them.

What have you lost because you failed to release?

THE BEST EXAMPLE

(ALSO FOUND IN MARK 6, LUKE 9, AND JOHN 6)

Matthew 14:19-21 NIV - [19] And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. [20] They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. [21] The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- God knows what He is going to do. All you have to do is thank Him for what you already have.

What needs are you relying on God to satisfy?

THE FLOW FROM THE PROVIDER

- Someone GAVE the boy a bag
- The boy GAVE the bag to Jesus
- Jesus GAVE thanks to God
- Jesus GAVE the resources from the bag to the disciples
- The disciples GAVE to the people
- The people GAVE thanks to God
- God GAVE the boy a basket

Malachi 3:10b NIV - Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

- Your "thank you" will fill you up with overflow for others.

What has God given you that you are supposed to pass on? Do you block the flow from God or act as a vessel for it?

ASSIGNMENT

Release what you already have and give thanks. Being thankful brings increase.

PRAYER

Father, Thank You for being the provider of all things. I pour out my gratitude on You for those things that You have given me and those things You will give me. As You release Your blessings to me, teach me how to release them to others. Let the fruit of Your Spirit be shown in and through me at all times. In Jesus name, Amen!