

## **Cheerful Giver**

### *You Feed Them*

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Sunday, November 16, 2025

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### **2 Corinthians 9:6–10 NLT**

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

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.

### **Proverbs 22:9 ESV**

Whoever has a bountiful [good] eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

### **Luke 9:10–17 NLT**

When the apostles returned [from their missionary journeys], they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.

Late in the afternoon, the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" For there were about 5,000 men there.

Jesus replied, “Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each.” So the people all sat down. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!

### **Jesus’ Formula for His Followers:**

- 1. See the need.**
- 2. Take responsibility for what you can do.**
- 3. Identify what you DO have (not what you lack).**
- 4. Give it to Jesus to bless!**

### **Luke 9:17 NLT**

They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!

**When we are willing to “see the needs” and put “what little we have” into God’s hands, we activate the miracle power of heaven.**

# Small Group Guide: You Feed Them

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## Opening Question:

Think about a time when you saw a need that felt impossible to meet. How did you respond? Were you tempted to ignore it or try to handle it on your own?

## Multiplication Miracles

In the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, we see a powerful lesson about faith, responsibility, and generosity. When the disciples saw the massive crowd and recognized the problem—everyone's hunger—they initially thought the solution was beyond their reach. But Jesus challenged them with a simple, profound command: "You feed them."

This story isn't just about the miraculous loaves and fish; it's about how Jesus wants to work through us. He shows us that when we see a need and bring what little we have to Him, miracles happen.

## Jesus' process involves a few key steps:

- Seeing the need with faith.
- Taking responsibility to do what we can.
- Identifying what we actually have.
- Giving it to Jesus for Him to bless and multiply.

## Rather than just describing these steps again, think about yourself in the disciples' shoes. To each step, ask yourself:

1. Are you able to see needs around you clearly—spiritually, emotionally, physically?
2. Are there areas where you're responsible but feeling overwhelmed or unprepared?
3. Do you honestly know what you have to offer—your time, gifts, resources, or influence?
4. Are you willing to give what you have, trusting Jesus to take it and make it enough?

This process builds faith because it requires trust—trust that Jesus can and will multiply what we give Him. The miracle of the feeding was proof that God's provision exceeds what we see and expect when we step out in obedience.

## **For Discussion or Reflection**

1. In what areas of your life are you struggling to see the needs around you clearly? How could asking Jesus for His perspective help?
3. Take a moment to honestly evaluate what you have to give—your talents, time, resources. Are you holding some back out of fear or doubt?
4. How does trusting Jesus to bless what you give transform your attitude toward generosity and responsibility?
5. Is there a specific need around you right now that you feel called to respond to? What is one practical step you can take this week to share what you have?

Remember, Jesus is inviting you to participate in His miracle-working power. When you see the need, take responsibility, and give what you have—even if it's small—He will bless it and multiply it beyond what you could imagine. Trust in Him today, and ask Him to show you where to start.