

Jesus Feeds 5000

By Courtney Still



There are parts of life that seem impossible to conquer and we wonder how we will manage to get by. This devotion examines a Bible story that reminds us that God will always provide and will not give us a situation we are unable to handle.

For
Young Adult

Season
Summer

Needed

Bible (or print last page), pen/pencil (if you want to jot down some notes)

Prepare in Advance

- Find a comfortable place to do this devotion.
- Quiet your mind.

Experience

Read Mark 6:30-44

Consider

God often asks us to put faith in situations that seem impossible to get through, like trusting that five loaves and two fish will be sufficient to feed 5,000. It's easy to get in our own way by putting faith in our abilities and the plans we make for ourselves, which will never be perfect. We may have limitations but God does not, and that is who we must put our trust in.

This is not to say it's easy to put our trust in God at all times. We might feel like "sheep without a shepherd" if we can't sense God's guiding hand as directly as we would like. God can feel very distant at times when life becomes overwhelming. All of a sudden there are too many decisions to make, too many different options and too many outside voices giving their opinion. All this to deal with and we're still being asked by God to trust that it will work out.

As this story in Mark demonstrates, trusting in God includes taking care of those around us as well, even when we have our own agendas. When the disciples seem concerned with their own situation, Jesus tells them to feed the crowds instead of sending them away. The disciples cannot comprehend how they are expected to take care of this large group and wonder if they must sacrifice to sustain everyone. However, when they obey God and take care of others just with what they have before them, they find there is plenty for all.

Despite our struggle, the good news is that God does take care of us and has a plan for each of us. Trust that God knows what to do. Trust that your hardships are meant for a larger purpose and to experience growth. Trust that God has placed people in your life that are on a similar journey. When we come together and share what we have, even if it's minimal, God's blessings will be abundant.

Reflect

- What did you resonate with in this passage?
- Do you have an example of something in your life that seemed as hopeless or insignificant as the five loaves and two fish in this story?
- What is it that frustrates you about this time in your life?
- What is it that makes you struggle with trusting God fully?
- How has God turned around an impossible situation for you?

Pray

Say this prayer when you've completed the devotion:

*O God, remind me that there is nothing that is too difficult or too immense for you to handle. Help me to put my faith in you when I face any challenge and know you walk with me at all times.
Amen.*



Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Mark 6:30-44

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

