



ROUTE 66 - Gary Hanson of Convoy of Hope

Key Idea: One Day to Feed the World - Your one day transforms their every day.

Scriptures Used: John 6:1-15 - Jesus Feeds Five Thousand.

Share: Did you know? God doesn't need the money we possess to accomplish His mission. He isn't in heaven, pacing back and forth, wondering if we will step up financially so His mission can proceed. And if we don't offer our resources for His purposes, God will not throw up His arms in exasperation and walk away from the mission dejected. No, God doesn't need us for His already victorious mission, but He does invite us to participate, to join Him in victory. **He is in control.** The boy with five loaves and two fish, who gave what he had to Jesus, learned this on that day.

Discuss:

- 1) *Giving is an act of faith and obedience that can be difficult especially when done sacrificially. How has saying yes to God's invitation to participate in His mission changed your mind and heart about giving?*
- 2) *Giving is a spiritual discipline that teaches us to trust God over our finances. How has returning your tithes and giving offerings impacted your life and relationship with God?*

Read: John 6:1-7 *"After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. 3 Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. 4 (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) 5 Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" 6 He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"*

Share: In verse 6, we read these words, "6 He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do." **God was in control.** Jesus had asked Philip the question about buying bread, not because he wanted a solution, but because he wanted faith.

Discuss:

- 1) *What are your thoughts about Philip's response to Jesus in verse 7? Can you relate to Philip's lack of faith in that moment? Explain. (Mention this note after you've received responses: Philip had already seen Jesus do many miracles; there should have been no question to him about the divine resources Jesus had.)*
- 2) *Share of a time when God asked something of you because He wanted your faith not a solution. What did you learn from that experience?*

Read: John 6:8-9 *"8 Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. 9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"*

Share: Barley was always regarded as simple food, more often fit for animals than for people. The two small fish (perhaps salted) were to be eaten as a relish along with the bread of barley. This means it is likely that the young boy came from a poor family.

Discuss:

- 1) *Andrew was right, there wasn't much to work with, but God doesn't need much when we give what we have in faith. Has there been a time when you've seen God do a lot with a little in your life? How did that impact your faith and the faith of those you're connected to?*
- 2) *What are some practical things we can do to grow our faith in the area of giving? Do you think that giving ever gets easier? Explain. If yes, what makes it easier?*

Read: John 6:10-11 *"10 "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.*

Share: Though the disciples did not understand or anticipate the miracle, Jesus invited them to participate in it. They distributed the miraculously multiplied bread and fish. Jesus demonstrated to them the giving character of God – the same character God desires to build within us. **Proverbs 11:24** says, ***There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.*** This bread was multiplied as it was "scattered."

Discuss:

- 1) *Jesus took the few loaves of bread and fish and gave thanks to God; He was determined to give His Father **thanks** for what He did have. What do you think this teaches us about expressing our gratitude to God? Share of a time when your gratitude for what you do have has helped you overcome a negative perspective and led you to a win? What was the win?*
- 2) *The miracle of this story resides in the hands of Jesus. Little is much in His hands. What is something you have placed in the hands of Jesus and seen Him bless and/or multiply? How has that experience changed the way you view and manage the “small things” in your life?*

Read: John 6:12-15 “12 After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” 13 So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves. “14 When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!”15 When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

Share: Jesus was generous, but never wasteful. Jesus wanted to make good use of everything. In the same way God instructs us to be good stewards. **Stewardship is the responsible management of resources, and can be applied to many areas of life, including the environment, health, economics, and more.**

Discuss:

- 1) *Which area of your life do you find most difficult to steward well: your health, your finances, or your time? Explain why. How can surrendering that area to God change things?*
- 2) *What would you say is your greatest take away from today’s discussion? How can you apply it to participating in advancing God’s Kingdom at Fresh Start Church?*

Closing remarks:

The boy with two fish and five loaves learned a lot that day. He learned God is in control, and that He is about multiplication. He learned that multiplication often starts with an act of trust and sacrifice. And he learned that while we certainly get to participate, it is ultimately God who brings about the multiplication. The same is true for us. God wants us to trust him with our possessions and work to advance his Kingdom.

So, if you feel you have little, look to the boy with two fish and five loaves. Remember what he learned that day. Trust God with your resources, and let him multiply those resources in ways you could have never imagined.

Note to share about the One Day to Feed the World Offering:

Encourage those in your LOOP if they have not yet given to the One Day to Feed the World offering that they can still participate. Maybe even use today's discussion to help them see what God could do with their gift if they gave it.

Pray to close and don't forget to share the upcoming events and service opportunities.

Upcoming Events:

Oh What a Night - Women's Holiday Event - Friday, November 22nd

- 6:30 - 9:30 pm, \$35 per person.
- Register on the Church Center App.

Feast of Hope - Wednesday, November 27th

- Visit FreshStart.Church to learn more and to sign up.
- This is an outreach event to serve a Thanksgiving meal and the Hope found in Jesus to the Homeless at the City Lights Outreach located at Crossroads Church in Pleasantville, NJ.