



Imagine US

a missional vitality series

**BEING
GENEROUS**

¹ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.

John 6:1-15

³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”

John 6:1-15

⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

John 6:1-15

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."

John 6:1-15

There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

John 6:1-15

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

John 6:1-15

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

John 6:1-15

**The “Feeding of the Five
Thousand” is the only miracle
recorded in all four gospels:**

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 6:31-44

Luke 9:12-17

John 6:1-15

**1) THERE ARE NO
EXCUSES**

(vs. 5-9)

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

John 6:5-9

⁷ Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up,

John 6:5-9

⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

John 6:5-9

³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

Mark 6:33

44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was
from the town of Bethsaida.

John 1:44

A) PHILIP'S EXCUSE

(vs. 7)

Philip was a realist and a pessimist. Philip would say, “We cannot afford to be generous.”

B) ANDREW'S EXCUSE

(vs. 9)

Andrew was an optimist, but not an idealist. Andrew would say, “We can be generous, but only to a few.”

“With man [and with woman] this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:26

² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:2-5

4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:2-5

**When it comes to generosity,
do we have child-like faith, the
main ingredient for miracles?**

**We often do little with a lot,
but God always does a lot
with a little**

**2) THERE IS MORE
THAN ENOUGH**

(vs. 10-11)

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).

John 6:10-11

¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

John 6:10-11

A) THE PROPHET MOSES

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

Exodus 16:11-18

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?”

Exodus 16:11-18

For they did not know what it was.
Moses said to them, “It is the bread the
LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is
what the LORD has commanded:
‘Everyone is to gather as much as they
need. Take an omer for each person you
have in your tent.’”

Exodus 16:11-18

¹⁷ The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. ¹⁸ And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

Exodus 16:11-18

B) THE PROPHET ELISHA

⁴² A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said. ⁴³ “How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked.

2 Kings 4:42-44

But Elisha answered, “Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’” **44 Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.**

2 Kings 4:42-44

**If God did it in the past, could
Jesus do it in the present?**

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never hunger.”

John 6:35

**When both feedings are
combined, we approximate
that Jesus is meeting the
basic needs of 40,000-50,000
people**

**Even Jesus, the Son of God,
understood that the only way
for generosity to turn into a
miracle of mass multiplication
was to pray**

¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated **as much as they wanted.**

John 6:11

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

**We might be living in a place
of scarcity, but we have a God
of abundance**

3) THERE IS ALWAYS

EXTRA

(vs. 12-13)

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

John 6:12-13

**We must steward the extra
that we are given just as
carefully as we stewarded
the little that we had**



**“63% of the food Canadians
throw away could have been
eaten.”**

(The National Zero Waste Council, 2017)

**“Extra” is the portion that
results from partnership
between generous people
and a generous God**

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:9-13

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” [For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.]

Matthew 6:9-13

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