

Conversation Starters

- The power of G-force affects some people differently than others. Do you enjoy rollercoasters and other thrill rides?
- If rides aren't for you, do you seek adventure, or thrills in some other way?

Discuss

³ “Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.

⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do” (John 6:3-6, ESV).

In verse 6, John tells us that Jesus was testing Phillip.

- How has God tested you?
- How did you respond?

The first of the four key principles from this message is:

Generosity is a life-test.

- In what ways are you generous?
- Where do you need to grow in generosity?

The second key principle is:

It's not the amount that counts.

A child offered five barley loaves and two fish, and Jesus fed a multitude. Your generosity might not be remembered two thousand years from now, but a simple act of kindness could change a life.

- What are some small steps you can take to begin sharing the generosity of God?
- How could a small, simple act of generosity be used to make a lasting impact on someone's life?
- What can we learn from the faith of the child who offered up all he had, though it seemed insignificant in the eyes of the apostles?

Jesus multiplied a poor child's lunch into enough food to feed thousands of people. This demonstrates the third key principle from the story:

Generosity always multiplies.

Generosity reflects the heart of God.

- What other characteristics of God should we seek to reflect, and how can you personally and tangibly share them with the least and the lost?

The final principle is:

You can't outgive God.

¹² "And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten" (John 6:12-13, ESV).

The single, small meal offered to Jesus not only fed thousands of people, it also provided a full basket of food for each of the twelve apostles.

To practically apply the principles of this story to your life consider following the three "P"s.

- 1. Priority**
- 2. Percentage**
- 3. Progressive**

Giving should be a priority in a Christ-follower's life. The amount is not as important as the percentage, and as you prosper in life the amount and percentage should progress.

- How do you feel about these ideas?

Next Steps

- Will you spend time in prayer this week asking God to guide your giving, and that He will provide you with opportunities to share His love and generosity?
- Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone to show God's loving generosity to someone in need this week?

Pray

Father, please fill the hearts of your children with love and generosity that will reflect you to the world in a way that will disarm the hardened, wounded hearts of the lost and wandering.