



## The Life You're Looking For

### Warm-up

Think back to when you were a young child. What did you dream of doing when you became an adult? What did you think life would look like? Share with the group.

### The Word & Application

#### Read Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)

Jesus had compassion on the large crowd that followed Him and began to heal the sick amongst them. When evening came, the disciples were ready to send the crowd away, knowing that they did not have food to feed the thousands present. Instead of agreeing with His disciples and sending the crowd away to find food, Jesus told them to *"give them something to eat."* Despite having lived and walked with Jesus and despite knowing that Jesus was the all-powerful Son of God, the disciples responded with the facts of what they saw, *"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish."*

- Has God ever asked you to step out and do something that you thought would be impossible to accomplish?
- Despite having seen the faithfulness of God in your own life, have you ever responded like the disciples and logically answered God with the facts of what you had or of what you thought you could do?

**The mark of spiritual health is generosity.**

#### Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-12 (NLT)

The Scripture says that *"God is the one who provides seed for the farmer"* and that *"he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."*

- Why do we find it so hard to believe God to provide for our needs when the Scripture clearly states that He will?
- Did you ever realize that God provides for your needs so that you can always be generous to others?

**Our biggest ambush: fear.**

The greatest hindrance to our generosity is fear. Fear that God may not come through to provide for us. Fear that we will live in a state of lack. Fear of being uncomfortable.

- What are some things that cause you to live in fear, thereby affecting your ability to live a generous life?
- What does the Scripture have to say about fear? Share a few verses with the group.

We must remember that God is greater and more powerful than our present situation. He does not live according to the economy of this world. The economy of this world does not dictate God's ability or desire to move powerfully in your life and circumstances.

### **In God's economy:**

#### **1. The pressure is off.**

##### **Read Luke 12:31 (NLT)**

The Bible clearly tells us that if we seek first and above all else the Kingdom of God, He *will* provide all that we need. It is not about your *ability* to have all your needs met; it's about *trusting God* to have them met.

- Why do we find it so hard to obey this verse and believe that it is true?

#### **2. Subtraction brings addition.**

##### **Read Luke 6:38 (NLT)**

In school we were always taught that when you subtract something, you are taking away and decreasing something else. But remember, God's economy is not subject to the rules of the economy of this world.

- Which part of Luke 6:38 stands out to you the most?
- What comes to mind when you think about this Scripture?

#### **3. Generosity equals life.**

##### **Read Luke 12:32-34 (NLT)**

Generosity equals life because what you invest in is where your life is – *"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."* You may find that wherever you are investing your time, energy, and resources is what consumes your mind and affects the course of your life.

- Think about your own life. Where are you investing yourself along with your time, energy, and resources? Is there anything you would change?
- Which object in Luke 12:32-34 also defies the rules of this world? What does that object represent?
- How has this discussion today challenged you step out when God asks you to do something you may think is impossible or uncomfortable?
- What is God saying to you through this lesson?

### **Prayer**

Ask God to help everyone in your group trust Him to provide for their needs so that we all might live generous and full lives.