



**Ask God to Bless
What He Provides**

Do you like a good story? Read John 6:1-14

How are we partners with God? _____

1. THE TRUST TEST FOR RECESSION PROOF LIVING

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." Mark 6:34-36

- Why was Jesus concerned? _____

"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving." Amy Carmichael

- What was the problem? _____
- What excuses did Jesus' disciples offer? _____

BIG IDEA: You give what you have and let God take care of the distribution issues.

- What excuses have you used when confronted with a need beyond your ability? _____

TRUST TEST: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

2. JESUS IS NOT LIMITED BY THIS ECONOMY!

What happens when we do the math? _____

- Miracles begin when you trust God and offer him everything!

For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (New Living Translation)

When was the last time you offered a sacrifice to God?

- Miracles are powered by prayer: *I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.* Philemon 1:6
- Miracles open people's eyes to God: *The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!"* John 6:14 (Message)

3. QUESTIONS FOR GOD'S PARTNERS ABOUT RECESSION-PROOF LIVING

- What do you have?
- Are you willing for God to use it?
- Have you asked God to bless it?

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

RECESSION PROOF RESOURCES:

"Money and Possessions," by Randy Alcorn

"Total Money Makeover," by Dave Ramsey

"Debt Free Living," by Larry Burkett

"The Shrewd Christian: You Can't Have It All, But You Can Have More Than Enough," by Neil Atkinson

Web sites for Recession Proof Living resources;

www.daveramsey.com

www.crown.org (Crown Ministries)

www.willowcreek.org/goodsense (Willow Creek)

www.compass1.org (Compass—finances God's way)

www.saddleback.com/lakeforest/carehelp/financialpractical/personalfinances