

# Devotional #1

## Bread in the Desert and on the Mountain

### Read John 6:3-13

*“Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” he said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost. “ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.”*



### Show the video

*“Bread in the Desert and on the Mountains” (8 minutes)*

### Reflect together (Respond to all the questions or select 1 or 2 questions)

When Jesus asks Philip, *“Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”*

Philip responds reasonably, *“Six months wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”*

When Andrew finds a boy with five barley loaves and two fish he asks the obvious question, *“But what are they among so many people?”*

The featured congregations see great need and few resources. It is reasonable to ask, *“Is there enough to give?”*  
An obvious response: *“What we have is not enough for the needs of our community.”*

*How do they respond to these reasonable questions?*

*Do you think they have “enough” to give?*

*What are the gifts these congregations share?*

*What person or phrase inspired you?*

*What do they give that is more than a “hand-out”?*

*Where did you see signs of faith and signs of the presence of Jesus?*

Think about your congregation:

*What are the needs of the crowds that surround you?*

*Who would Jesus see with compassion?*

*What is your response to Jesus’ question, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”*

*What offering could you put in Jesus’ hands to meet the hunger in those around you?*

### Prayer

*Loving God, often life seems too much to handle. We don’t have the time, the energy or the resources to even look around, let alone respond to the great need around us. And yet, you surprise us with your call. You invite our gifts, small as they may seem, and you offer your abundance in response to our poverty. Help us trust that what we have is “enough” and help us venture into your service where there is “more than enough” to share. Amen.*

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