



## A Lot from a Little

### Handout

---

**Session Theme:** Jesus & The Old Testament

**Activity:** Minute to Win It

**Scripture Story:** *2 Kings 4:1-7; Mark 6:32-43*

**Video Clip:** Adventures of Toby

**2 Kings 4:1** The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." **2** Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." **3** Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. **4** Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." **5** She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. **6** When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. **7** She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

**Mark 6:32** And so Jesus and the disciples went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves. **33** Now many saw them going, and knew them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of Jesus and the disciples. **34** So when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng, but he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. **35** And when it grew late, Jesus' disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the hour is now late; **36** send the people away, to go into the country and villages round about and buy themselves something to eat." **37** But Jesus answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy ten thousand dollars worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" **38** And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." And when the disciples had found out, they said, "Five loaves and two fish." **39** Then Jesus commanded them all to sit in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. **41** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, Jesus blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And they all ate and were satisfied. **43** And the disciples took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44** And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men plus women and children.

#### NOTES

- We're doing this session for a number of reasons – the main reason is to point out that what Jesus did, though impressive, was not new or unique to the Israelites understandings of how God can work through us, humans.
- There are other stories in the Old Testament where thousands are fed, in lonely places, like when the Israelites are in the wilderness with Moses and God sends them manna, a bread-like substance, every morning for them to eat.
- For the Israelites who weren't at the feeding of the thousands, but then heard the story, the first thing they would've connected it to is this Elisha story or the manna story just mentioned.