

DAY 4

Good question, right? You might be thinking, "What do I have to give? I'm just a kid!" Well, think about the boy who gave up his dinner.

What did the boy have? Bread and fish. Something that probably seemed pretty ordinary. But Jesus took it and did something extraordinary—something we're still talking about today.

YOU CAN GIVE . . .

Your money

Don't just spend it all on stuff you want for yourself. Take some if it and think of a good way to use it to serve others.

You can give money to your church, to support someone's mission trip, or donate to an organization that helps provide food for people in need.

Your talent

Do you like to draw? Make an art project to brighten someone's day. Do you like to sing? Make a video of an encouraging song and text it to someone. Think about what you can do well, and think about how you might be able to serve someone just by letting them know they're on your mind.

Your time

Maybe your time doesn't seem like such an amazing gift. But if you think about, time is one the main things people don't have enough of (especially adults). Your parents are exhausted after a long day of work. You could surprise them by folding laundry or unloading the dishwasher so they don't have to. You've got time. You've got energy. Put it to use and serve them when they least expect it!



DAY 1

READ JOHN 6:1-13

When you're looking at a big problem, there are really just two ways to deal with it.

- Option A: Focus on the problem
- Option B: Be part of the solution.

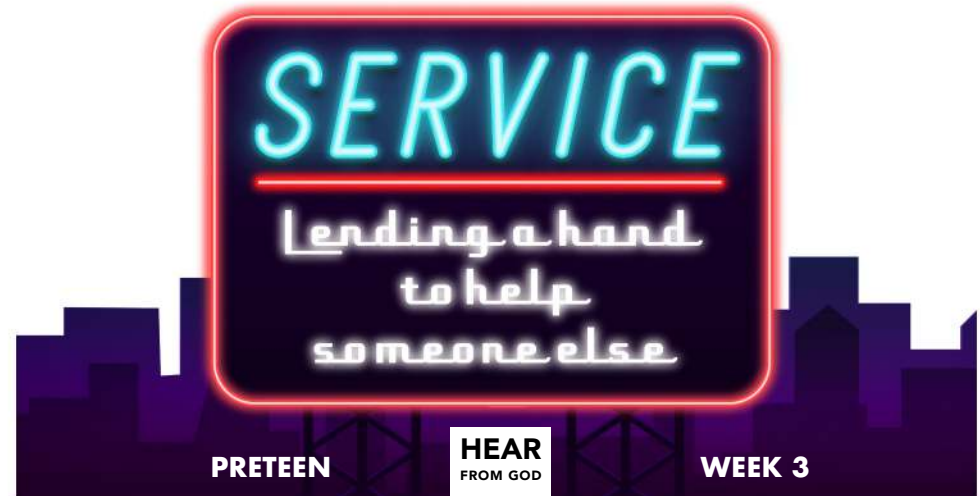
Remember the time when Jesus fed a crowd of thousands with one boy's dinner? When you give the story a closer look, some pretty interesting things stand out. For one, Jesus already knew what He was going to do (John 6:6). He had a plan. Of course, the disciples didn't know His plan. They only saw the problem: lots and lots of hungry people!

Philip did what we often do. He focused on the problem and he got so overwhelmed that he basically gave up. (John 6:7, NIV)

Andrew used his head. He found a boy who at least had something to eat. But still, he figured that it could never feed a crowd. He thought, "What's the point?" (John 6:9, NIV)

Philip or Andrew couldn't see what Jesus had planned. But Andrew was on the right track when he basically said, "Jesus, here's what we have." The truth is, none of us can see what God has planned. We can see just a tiny piece. If we give up like Philip did, we miss out on what God might have planned. But if we offer up what we DO have—like Andrew and the young boy did—we have the chance to be part of the bigger story God is writing.

The ending isn't up to us. Our job is simple: to trust God enough to say, "God, here's what I have. How can you use me today?"



DAY 2

Can you think of a time when God showed up in a way you never expected?

He prompted somebody to be a friend to you at just the right time. He worked through you as you served someone else—and you never imagined how He could use you in that way.

That's what God does. He can perform miracles that are really obvious, like feeding a crowd of thousands with one boy's bread and fish.

He can also do “everyday miracles” that we might miss if we don't take the time to see them.

One thing about following God is that it's never boring. He might surprise you when you least expect it. We can offer up what we have—the things He's given us—and then let Him do the rest.

Today, find a time to bundle up and take a walk outside. Look around. Thank God for the miracles He's done in your life. Thank Him for the things He's done for you that you never even noticed!



DAY 3

HERE'S A QUESTION FOR YOU ASK YOUR LEADER AT CHURCH:

Why did you become a Small Group Leader?

(You could ask the same question to your Pastor, too.)

Write their answer here.

Wow—aren't you so glad they said “yes” and decided to serve? Leaders definitely don't do it for the money!

Generally speaking, leaders don't sign up to serve because they feel like experts. They sign up to serve because they see an opportunity to come alongside you and your friends and help you navigate the good times and the tough times that come with being a kid.

It's not that leaders have everything together. They just recognize that God can do something big through them when they serve—something that's way *bigger* than them.

They bring what they have. They give their time. They give their energy. They give their creativity. They give their love and friendship.

What does God do with all those things? Way more than they or you or your parents even realize. God connects their story to your story and together, you help each other connect to His story.

Write a note to thank your leader for the way they've invested in you, and plan to give it to them the next time you meet together.