

TIME TO GROW HOW TO PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE

Part 1 of 7
Bruce Downes

1. ADMIT: I Have a Need

34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. 35 When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; 36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." 37 But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" Mark 6:34-37 (NRSV)

2. ASSESS: What I Already Have

And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Mark 6:38 (NRSV)

He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. John 6:6 (NRSV)

3. GIVE GOD: Whatever I Have

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. Mark 6:41 (NRSV)

The boy gave what he had... willingly, cheerfully & immediately.

4. EXPECT HIM: To Multiply It

And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Mark 6:42-43 (NRSV)

"For God all things are possible." Mark 10:27 (NRSV)

5 PURPOSES of TIME TO GROW

1. TO HELP US GROW TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Through ...

- a weekend series: "Time to Grow Building a Great Life"
- -a midweek series on the Book of Ephesians
- Scripture for each day during your personal prayer
- a weekly Bible Study group
- reading through the New Testament in 35 days
- challenging people to become mature in their giving
- give up something as a reminder to pray (fast)

"You are growing -- in faith, in speaking, in knowledge, in truly wanting to help, and in the love you learned from us. In the same way, be strong also in the grace of giving." 2 Cor. 8:7 (NCV)

2. TO DEEPEN OUR Fellowship as a Church Family

By having half of our Church Community visit the other half over the next 56 days and to have where we are in other places Online meals together.

"Open your homes to each other..." 1 Peter 4:9 (NCV)
"You should be like one big happy family..." 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

3. TO HELP EVERYONE Find a Place of Ministry

"Complete the ministry God has given you." 2 Timothy 4:5 (NLT)

4. TO CELEBRATE the Blessings of God

We will hold at a date to be announced a Thanksgiving Banquet

"Let us come before Him with thanksgiving." Psalm 95:2 (NLT)

5. TO CHALLENGE US TO Give to the Growth of Our Church

By having a Commitment Day, Sunday December 15, 2024

"They first gave themselves unreservedly to God... Then the other giving simply flowed out of the <u>purposes of God working in their lives</u>." 2 Cor. 8:5 (Mes)

WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING TIME TO GROW?

- 1. TO SEE Miracles
- 2. TO GROW Spiritually
- 3. TO BE Hassled by Satan
- 4. TO EXPERIENCE Joy over the next 56 days

FOUR MIRACLES WE ARE ASKING GOD FOR:

- 1. MIRACLE OF People
- 2. MIRACLE OF Provision
- 3. MIRACLE OF *Places*
- 4. MIRACLE OF Positions