

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

INTRO

- What was a highlight of your summer?
- Do you think its healthy to compare your life to others? What are the dangers?
- If God asked you to do something impossible, how would you respond?

READ

Exodus 4:1-5; Mark 6:35-44

REFLECT

In both stories, God brings a seemingly impossible command; Moses and the disciples are more aware of their inadequacy to fulfill the command to which God asks a question:

What is that in your hand? (Ex 4:2)

How many loaves do you have? (Mk 6:38)

3 ways these 2 narratives have application for us today.

1. RECOGNIZE WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND

Moses' staff and a boys lunch are everyday, common things. Sometimes we don't recognize what we have because we're so familiar with them. It's often easier to recognize what we don't have.

Qu: Why is it easier to recognize our inadequacies in fulfilling God's commands?

Qu: If God had to ask you "what's in your hand?" What would you say?

2. DON'T DESPISE WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND

Contentment is harder these days as there's always the latest, greatest, and better version of something we don't have.

But God uses ordinary things like a staff or a simple lunch to do extraordinary things.

Qu: Do you tend to despise the ordinary in your life or celebrate it? Do you think God is

interested in the ordinary things of our lives? Explain.

3. SURRENDER WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDS

Ultimately, it is not what's in our hand that matters most, but what we let God do with it. Moses had to throw down his staff as an act of surrender; the boy had to put his lunch in Jesus' hands.

When we put our natural, ordinary resources into the hands of God, they take on supernatural and extraordinary potential. As we release what's in our hand, God releases what's in His.

Qu: what are some of the reasons why we struggle to surrender more fully to God?

God is wanting us to surrender all of our lives into his hands. Jesus placed not just his gifts but his life into God's hands in the ultimate demonstration of love for us:

"Father, **into your hands** I commit my spirit!"
And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46)

Truthfully, we are inadequate by ourselves to do anything for God. However, God has chosen to work in us, with us, and through us for his purposes.

Qu: what is God perhaps inviting you to surrender into his hands?

RESPOND & PRAY

- What encouraged/challenged you the most from this discussion?
- Spend time praying about the things discussed asking God to help us recognize, not despise and surrender more fully to Him.