

Suggested Sermon Outline

Text: John 6: 1-15

Objective: People die every minute without faith in Christ somewhere around the globe. The gospel is the only hope of those perishing. Our message is urgent. God expects us to live with that urgency and use all He has given us to tell people about Jesus. Children – from the very start – desire to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others. Our responsibility is to nurture that urgency. In the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes, we see four specific ways to help our children live with urgency toward the gospel. We need to teach them to: give everything, ask God for help, work together, and expect a miracle.

- I. Give everything. (v. 8)
 - a. The little boy had little to give Jesus. But he didn't hold anything back. His five barley loaves and two fish didn't seem like much to the disciples. Yet after his gift the little boy had nothing left to eat. If Jesus didn't do a miracle, he'd go home hungry. He took a great risk of faith.
 - b. We have to leave nothing back if we're going to fulfill the Great Commission. We can't hold our resources back. We can't hold our time back. We can't hold our talents back. We also can't hold our children back. Our children are gifts from God. He wants them to be a part of His mission in the world. We can't hold them back from that.
 - c. Meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others requires that we take great risks – just like the boy in the story. The mission is too urgent to play safe. To fulfill the Great Commission we'll need to go to dangerous places. We'll need to risk our resources. If Jesus hadn't come through, the boy would have been hungry. That's the kind of risk we need to teach and model for our children.
- II. Ask God for help. (v. 11)
 - a. John tells us that Jesus thanked God before He distributed the food. The synoptic gospels tell us that He "blessed" the food. In any case, Jesus invited God into the equation. Considering that Jesus was God in the flesh, this was a very humbling act. Jesus modeled how we are to begin the process of meeting physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in our world—prayer.
 - b. The task of taking the gospel into the entire world is too big and too urgent of a task for us. We cannot do it on our own. God has to play a part. We need to teach our children to pray for the mission we've been given. Our prayer lives need to model a commitment to the Great Commission. We need to teach our children to pray for their lost friends and pray for missionaries sharing the gospel across North America and around the world.
- III. Work together. (vv. 12-13)
 - a. God used a team of people in this story to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the crowd. Jesus taught the crowd. The boy gave his food. Jesus multiplied the food. In the other gospels, we see that the disciples passed out the food. The disciples also collected the leftovers. Everyone worked together to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the crowd.

- b. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says. “Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts.” We always do God’s work better together. We need to teach our children that the urgent nature of the gospel means we need to work with others to get the job done. In mission organizations like Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, and Children in Action, our kids get an opportunity to work together with other kids to do mission projects that help advance the Great Commission. They learn that ministry and missions are better done together.
 - c. We also need to teach our children about the Cooperative Program. Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists work together to send missionaries around the world. Our mission efforts are much more effective when churches cooperate together than when we try to do it ourselves.
- IV. Expect a miracle. (v. 14)
- a. In the end Jesus did what only He could do. He multiplied the food. The miracle didn’t just lead to full stomachs—but full hearts as well. The text says that when the people saw the miracle, they knew God had sent Him.
 - b. When we give God everything, pray, and work together, God will show up and make more out of what we gave than just what was there. Just like the little boy, what we give is never “enough.” It’s God who makes it enough. He doesn’t do so to bring attention to us, but to show the world who Jesus really is.
- V. Conclusion
- a. Sometimes we can mistakenly believe that our most important contribution as parents is to turn our kids into productive citizens. It’s not. Our children come into this world with a mission from God—the Great Commission. We must be good stewards of the influence we have over them. Their mission is too urgent to let them sit on the sidelines.
 - b. To help them in their Great Commission task we need to model a missional lifestyle that gives everything, asks God for help, works together with other Christians, and expects a miracle from God. Our greatest influence over our children is as a missional model for them.
 - c. We can’t do it alone though. We teach our children the importance of teamwork when we team together with other parents to train our children to be missional. That’s why it’s so important to not just get your children involved in Sunday School and regular worship services but also in mission organizations like Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action. Through the help of other godly leaders who are on mission, our kids get to see these on-mission values reinforced.