



LESSON 7 // LIFTING LIMITS AND OVERCOMING LACK

Big Idea: We learn from Phillip, one of Jesus' twelve apostles, that we can be either restricted by lack and limits or lifted to higher levels by faith. This kind of faith looks past lack and limits and sees the God of the miraculous. It involves action. And it makes us usable to God and a blessing to others

John 6:5-7 (NIV) *When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"*

John 6:8-9 (NIV) *Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"*

1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV) *David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. ... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."*

James 2:17-18 (NIV) *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*

Start Talking:

Talk about how your faith in God has helped you overcome some limits or lack in your life.

Start Thinking:

Read John 6:5-7. Why do you think Jesus tested Phillip's faith? What are some of the ways He tests our faith as we follow Him?

Read John 6:8-9. Why is our vision of life and what's possible so important?

Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47. How did David's perspective and faith enable him to conquer Goliath? What do you learn from this about overcoming challenges in your life?

Read James 2:17-18. Why is action an indispensable part of real faith? What happens if we are passive rather than active in our faith?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray this week for the wisdom and grace to put your faith into action. Look for opportunities to be proactive in making a real difference for God's kingdom. This might involve giving your time and practical resources to help someone in need, going the extra mile in serving at church or sharing your faith with a person who needs Jesus. Just do it as the Lord empowers and equips you!