



**FAMILY OF CHAMPIONS
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES**
WINNING, TRAINING & SENDING - TESTIFYING TO THE EXTRAVAGANT GRACE OF GOD

House Fellowship BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

FOLLOWING JESUS
THE GOD OF ABUNDANCE DISLIKES WASTE

BY PASTOR ELLIOT LAMPTEY

INTRODUCTION

RECAP: John 6:1-14

- ✓ *What lessons did you pick from not despising the little you have? (Last week's bible study)*

For all kinds of situations, you might face, God already has in mind what He wants to do.

Do not despise the little you have, rather give thanks because in giving thanks, things multiply.

This week, we are still in the same passage but have taken one particular verse that we will study, it is a topic that God is serious and passionate about.



Key Scripture:
John 6:12

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “**Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.**”

John 6:12

THE GOD OF ABUNDANCE

Gather all the remaining pieces.

✓ *If there is more than enough, what is the need of gathering leftovers?*

The God who provides in abundance does not waste. It is easy to live in abundance and be wasteful.

✓ *If you had more than enough, would you be mindful of leftovers?*

But God, in all His abundance, does not like waste. And He wants us to have abundance. We saw that God starts with little, but does not finish with little or small, rather He finishes so big that there are leftovers.

✓ *John 10:10b. How much does God want us to have?*

He said He came to give life, not only life but life in abundance as well.

John 21:1-6. Peter had spent the whole night trying to catch fish, and when Jesus came, there was abundance of fish, so much so that they could not lift the nets. Jesus wants us to have in abundance.

³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As **he was scattering the seed**, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Matthew 13:3-4

A farmer went sowing, he had so much seed in abundance that he scattered the seed all over. Imagine you are the farmer; would you scatter them all over or would make sure you dig holes and put one seed in each hole? But God has abundance to scatter.

¹ Praise awaits^[b] you, our God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² You who answer prayer,

to you all people will come.
³ When we were overwhelmed by sins,
you forgave^[c] our transgressions.
⁴ Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!
**We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.**

⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,
⁶ who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,
⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.
⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.

⁹ **You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.**
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.^[d]
¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
¹¹ **You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.**

Psalm 65:1-11

God is a God who fills us with good things. God crowns the year with abundance. And we approach the new year, we pray that God will fill us with abundance.

The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he

revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

² Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

³ Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. ⁴ Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

⁵ She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. ⁶ When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.”

But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

2 Kings 4:1-6

There was a woman who was owing and the creditors were coming for her and her children, so she ran to the man of God. And Elisha asked what she had in her house.

✓ *What do you have in your house?*

She said she only has little, but remember God starts with small.

✓ *Do you have the “I only have little” mentality?*

He told her to go and ask for jars from the neighbors and not to ask for just a few. God starts with few but He does not end with little, so do not despise the little you have, for out of her little oil, she filled many jars.

We have a God who can change situations in the desert. We do not need to go to Jerusalem, a big place or anything like that. He works out plenty from your Galilee.

When there is no empty jar, the oil stops flowing.

God can fill you more than you can take.

God can bless me more than I can take.

Some of us have been so stuck on the mentality of I do not have. We have deprived ourselves from a mentality of abundance.

. Economics is built on the philosophy that there is not much (lack), and so does the whole world, which makes us want to keep what we have instead of giving or sharing. But our God is a God of abundance who crowns us with it.

*¹⁵ He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For **the battle is not yours, but God’s**. ¹⁶ Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; **stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.**”*

*²⁰ Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! **Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.**” ²¹ After consulting the people, **Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his^h holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:***

*“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.”*

²² As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. ²⁵ So Jehoshaphat and his men went

to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing^[d] and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it.

2 Chronicles 20:15-17; 20-25

It was a time of war, fear, scarcity, uncertainty for King Jehoshaphat as he was informed that clans of people were coming to battle against him. Jehoshaphat was afraid, so the Lord told the prophet to speak to him, and say;

Do not afraid

Do not be discouraged

✓ *Why should we not be afraid or discouraged?*

Because the battle is not yours.

The battle is not mine! Stand firm! Have faith in the Lord your God and His prophets!

✓ *What would you feel and do if you were in Jehoshaphat's position?*

✓ *Would worship and praise be something that comes to your mind?*

Jehoshaphat put people to sing to the Lord. Our time of worship, singing and dancing must not be taken for granted, it is a weapon of war. We do not dance and sing to flex our good dance moves and our vocals, but we are in battle and that is our weapon.

✓ *What is praise for you? (Is it a moment to jump around and be joyful?)*

✓ *Why do you worship and praise?*

As the people were singing and praising Him, God was setting and dealing with their enemy. In your moment of little, discouragement and fear, you have to worship, praise and give thanks.

Be a person of worship.

✓ *Do you have an attitude of praise?*

You have to go out in praise and it will work out for your good. As you are going through that exam, the first paper may have been hard but you're still going for the next in praise.

From fear and discouragement, Jehoshaphat and his people found abundance, more than they could take away. It was so much that it took them 3 days to carry.

And you too have more than you think you have.

You have more than enough wisdom to do the course you're doing

God is a God of abundance, do not look at the five loaves and 2 fish that you started with, because God will finish big, it may take time, but trust Him. Do not be attached to the little you have. Do not say you have too little to do something.

God will finish well with you!

You may be riding the bus today, but later you might be riding your own Porsche in the future.

You may be lonely today, but, ...

Do not walk with an economic mentality. Do not limit God's ability to cause abundance in your life.

LET NOTHING BE WASTED

Jesus added something, He said, let nothing be wasted. God does not like waste (waste of time, resources, talents, ...) rather He says gather the leftovers. He is very concerned about this issue

- ✓ *How much of your food goes to waste?*
- ✓ *What goes to waste the most in your life and in your house? (Money, time, energy, food...)*

God needs to trust us with the abundance He will give us. God wants to give us so much but we have to be careful to not be wasteful in our abundance.

One big thing we find ourselves wasting is time.

WASTE OF TIME

*⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!*

*⁷ It has no commander,
no overseer or ruler,*

*⁸ yet it stores its provisions in summer
and gathers its food at harvest.*

*⁹ How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
When will you get up from your sleep?
¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest—
¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a thief
and scarcity like an armed man.*

Proverbs 6:6-11

Time is one thing that will not come back for you. Look at the ant, one of the weakest creatures but they are many, you find them in almost every house. The ant has no supervisor, it knows when to gather, to sow, when to go to bed, when to work. Most of us live like we own time; we wait for people to tell us what to do.

When we are young, we think we have time. We spend our time on Netflix, Instagram and many others. Just the other day, I read from a study that one takes about 4 years bathing. You can imagine, out of all the years you will live, you will spend 4 years bathing, what more eating, watching movies, walking aimlessly, daydreaming, sleeping?

- ✓ *If you have spent 4 years bathing, how many years do you think you have spent watching a movie, series, soccer or doing your guilty pleasure?*
- ✓ *How many wake up in the morning and do nothing?*

Most of us even find time to be bored, to go window-shopping. You can even say you're feeling lazy, today is your lazy day. No, time waits for no man! Arise oh sleeper! Wake up from your slumber!

Please remember the ant!

Have a budget over your time, money, energy and resources.

¹¹ I have seen something else under the sun:

*The race is not to the swift
or the battle to the strong,
nor does food come to the wise
or wealth to the brilliant
or favor to the learned;
but time and chance happen to them all.*

You would think that normally, the fastest would win the race, the wise one will have a lot of food, but Solomon tell us that some other factors are important; Time and opportunity. Do not play with these two things. God will give you an opportunity at a time, and you are use them wisely.

✓ *How do you use your opportunities and time?*

Even football is based on these two concepts

14 Therefore He says:

*“Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.”*

*15 See then that you **walk [e]circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, 16 **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.*

*16 **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil.
(NIV)*

Ephesians 5:14-16 NKJV

Walk circumspectly. Circumspectly comes from the word circumference. When you drive through a curve, you have to slow down, pay attention and wake up.

Wake up, oh sleeper! Christ wants to shine through us, but we have to wake up.

Make the most of the time, you have been given as an opportunity

- ✓ *What are you doing with this opportunity you have to be in Morocco?*
- ✓ *What other opportunities have you had?*

So do not be foolish, but make the most of it. Understand the will of the Lord, so that you may walk in it, so that you do not waste your time.