



Welcome

SERIES: KICK YOUR “BUTS”

Message: But I Have Nothing

Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Dear God, we come before you today with grateful hearts, overflowing with thanks for the countless blessings you have bestowed upon us. Thank you for the gift of life itself, for each breath we take. Thank you for our health and well-being, and for the strength you provide us each day. Thank you for our homes that provide shelter and comfort, and for the food that nourishes our bodies. We are thankful for the clothing that keeps us warm and for the resources that meet our daily needs. We thank you for the people in our lives who bring joy, support, and companionship. Thank you for our work and opportunities that allow us to contribute, learn, and grow. Most of all, God, we thank you for your unfailing love, grace, and mercy. Thank you for your constant presence in our lives, for guiding us, protecting us, and forgiving us. Help us to never take these blessings for granted, but to always appreciate them and to use them wisely. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Describe one moment of financial hardship in your life, what happened?

INTRODUCTION: God is a provider, even in dire circumstances. The widow who claims our attention in this text was facing extreme poverty and the devastating prospect of losing her children to slavery. God, through Elisha, stepped in and provided abundantly. This teaches us to trust that God can meet our needs, no matter how impossible the situation seems. However, the miracle starts with what we have. God often works with what we do possess, however small or insignificant it may seem, rather than waiting for us to have everything. We should be willing to offer our “nothing” to God, and watch God make it “something.”

BIBLE STUDY: Read 2 Kings 4:1-2 MSG: One day the wife of a man from the guild of prophets called out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead. You well know what a good man he was, devoted to God. And now the man to whom he was in debt is on his way to collect by taking my two children as slaves.”² Elisha said, “I wonder how I can be of help. Tell me, what do you have in your house?” “Nothing,” she said. “Well, I do have a little oil.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What’s one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. **Facing Desperation:** The widow in this passage is in an incredibly desperate situation, facing the loss of her sons to slavery. How does her immediate action of crying out to Elisha (a man of God) speak to the importance of seeking help and turning to faith in times of crisis, rather than trying to solve everything on one's own?



3. **The Something in Your Nothing:** Elisha's first question to the widow is, "What do you have in the house?" This seems to be a practical question, but it also prompts her to identify the small, seemingly insignificant resource she possesses (a jar of oil). What can we learn from this about how God often uses our existing, even meager, resources as a starting point for miracles, rather than requiring us to have everything perfect before He acts?
4. **Miracle Require You to Do Something:** The widow's miracle required not only Elisha's instruction but also her active participation in borrowing many empty jars and diligently pouring out the oil. What does this story teach us about the interplay between divine intervention and human action (faith-filled action) in seeing God work in our lives?
5. **Beyond the Immediate Need:** While the immediate need was to pay off debt and save her sons, the multiplied oil provided enough for her to *live on*. What does this larger provision suggest about God's character and His desire to not just meet immediate needs, but to provide abundantly and sustain His people? How might this principle apply to our own understanding of God's provision?

CHALLENGE: Make a list of what you have based on what you've learned in this group meeting. Now, put it to work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)