



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Imagine: Feeding of the Multitudes

RESOURCE GUIDE



Dear Church Leader,

IMAGINE your local church responding to **abundant blessings** with generous giving.

IMAGINE your local church going beyond what they think they can do and living into **unlimited possibility**.

IMAGINE your local church combining all of these gifts with those of more than 12 million United Methodists to be part of **transforming God's world** in the name of Jesus.

The Biblical account of the feeding of the multitude according to Mathew is one full of promise and possibility. What seemed impossible becomes possible through prophetic imagination. Jesus empowers his disciples to feed the people.

Everything the people needed was already in their midst.

This guide provides worship resources to help you **lead beyond limitations** and move your congregation into a God sized vision, confident that you already have the resources to accomplish it.

We are praying for you as you work to inspire faithful giving in your congregation.

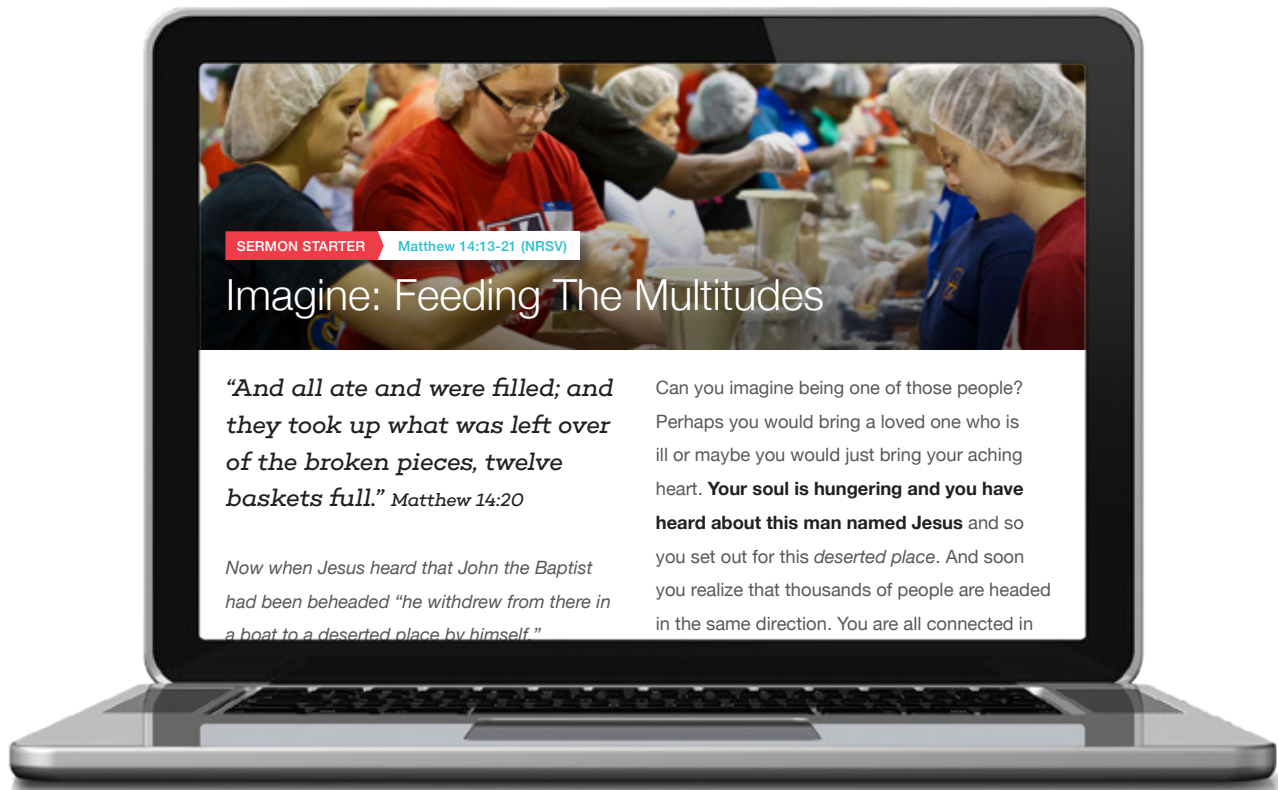


Sermon Starter: Imagine

Using Matthew 14:13-21 as a guiding Scriptural focus, this sermon starter brings the listeners into the encounter with Jesus. What might it have been like to follow him to a “deserted place” for his healing power and love?

By joining together with thousands of others who had come to be with Jesus, the people were connected. And when they were hungry, what seemed like limited resources becomes more than enough.

Use this sermon starter to generate a spirit of abundance and God sized dreams for the congregation you serve. Feel free to adapt this script for your context with illustrations that are specific to your local church.



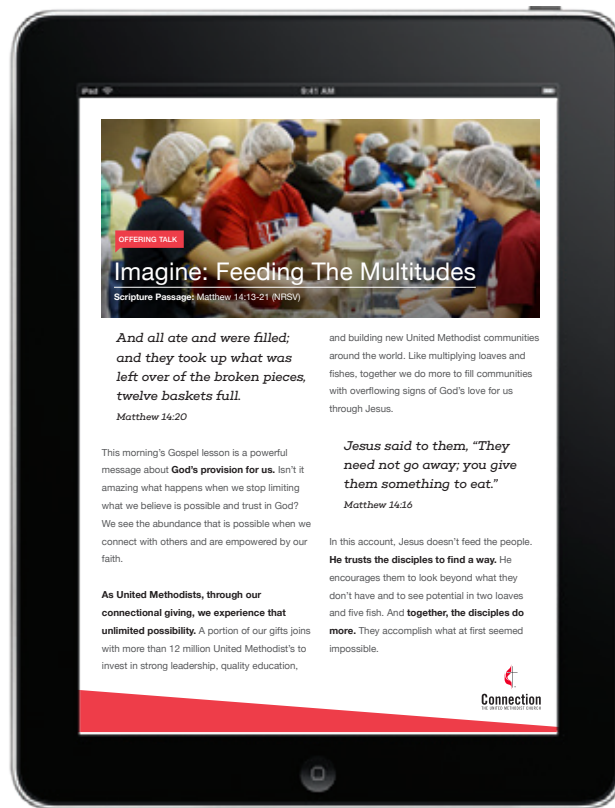
Offering Talk: Imagine

This offering talk is designed to connect with the sermon starter based on Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV). There are scripted formats depending on the style that is most comfortable for the person leading it.

The offering talk links the sermon theme of imagining unlimited possibility, with the concept of connectional giving. Include specific examples of mission opportunities that your congregation is familiar with and directly supports to make this talk even stronger.

To have the most impact, position this mission moment right before the offering and after the sermon. A well-respected church leader who has already demonstrated a spirit of generosity is the most appropriate person to share this talk.

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Offering Slides: Imagine

In addition to the congregation's hearing of the message, offering slides bring a multi-sensory option into the worship experience.

We have designed worship slides that connect with the Scripture reading. You might use them to emphasize specific points during the sermon or offering talk. Slides could also be shown at the beginning of the service as people enter or during the receiving of the offering to reinforce the concepts throughout the service.



If you don't have projection capability, consider printing the graphics on poster board and placing them around the worship space on easels. You could use the "Imagine" opening slide as an image on the bulletin cover. The "Imagine" theme lends itself to different and creative elements in your worship service.



Video: Imagine

The story of loaves and fishes is familiar to most churchgoers. This video connects the image with the impact that their giving has in the community and in the world.

We offer two lengths (30 seconds and 15 seconds) that can be posted on social media, sent in an email, or used during worship to help the congregation imagine the possibilities for their gifts to locally and globally multiply and impact God's people.

