



## GOD'S MATHEMATICS

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
<p>I. Examples of how God multiplies our gifts for his glory</p> <p>A. Read Isaiah 40:29. Ask each small group to open the envelope marked "Isaiah 40", and to put the small cards in order of the correct formula. Discuss the formula.</p>	5"	<p>I. <u>How God multiplies our Gifts for His glory</u></p> <p>A. Isaiah 40:29 – God reveals His strength in our weakness.</p> <p>Our weakness x God = Strength.</p>
<p>B. The Story of Five loaves and two fish (John 6:1-14)</p> <p>Tell the story from the Bible in your own words. It is preferable if you ask someone in advance to tell the story.</p> <p>Ask each group to open the envelope marked "John 6" and put the cards in the correct order and discuss the formula.</p>	10"	<p>B. The Story of Five loaves and two fish:</p> <p>Boy + 5 loaves and 2 fish x Jesus = food for 5000 men + food for women and children + 12 baskets</p>
<p>C. Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17:7-24).</p> <p>Tell this story is the same way as above. Open the envelopes marked "Widow" and put them in the correct order and discuss the formula.</p>	10"	<p>C. Elijah and the widow of Zarephath:</p> <p>Widow + cake x God = 1 cake x 3 people x 365 days x 3 years of famine = 3285 cakes.</p>
<p>D. Ask the group if they can remember a time when Jesus noticed the giving of a poor person. (Luke 21:1-4)</p>	5"	<p>D. The Widow's Offering:</p> <p>"Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."</p> <p>Widow + 2 coins x Jesus = 2000 years of inspiration.</p>

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<p>II. The alternative to multiplication</p> <p>Tell the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14-30.</p> <p>Ask "If the poor use poverty as a reason not to obey Jesus' command to love their neighbor, what will be the consequences?"</p>		<p>E. The alternative to multiplication</p> <p>One Servant + 1 talent x 0 = 0 talents + servant into darkness.</p>
<p>II. Summary</p> <p>A. God's math (to give and to be blessed) involved EVERYbody. No one is too poor or too weak.</p> <p>Can you tell of a time when a very poor person gave you something? How did you feel?</p>	10"	<p>II. <u>Summary</u></p> <p>A. God's math – Remember that feeling to be able to give is a good way to empower the person or strengthen his self-esteem.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once in Ethiopia, I received a small coin from a street boy – how happy he was to give.</li> <li>2. Long ago in Kenya, a poor nomadic woman gave me 5 shillings (very small amount) to be given to my wife. How happy I was, and how proud she was to be able to give!</li> </ol>
<p>B. Write together on the board with the group a general formula for God's math. Draw "x God =" in the middle and then complete the formula. The formula could look like the one below:</p>	10"	<p>D. Summary:</p> <p>Poor people + love for God + faith + obedience and sacrificial giving x God = blessings to others + personal blessing + God is praised</p>

**ATTITUDE:** Facilitator has first learned the joy of giving to God & then to others and loving them in obedience to God. He is committed to helping others to also learn and apply this to their own lives.

**SKILL:** Participants will be able to learn the importance of obedience to God in loving and giving to Him and to others and they in turn will want to share this with those in their communities.

**EVALUATION:** Facilitators will know that participants have learned the content of this lesson when they see them giving to God and others in love and then in turn helping others to do the same thing.

**MATERIALS:**

- Newsprint
- Marking Pens
- Masking Tape
- *God's Mathematics Handout Strips* - Cutouts for mathematical formula card in envelopes (one envelope for each group) marked as "Isaiah," "John 6," "Widow"

<b>Our weakness</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>God</b>	<b>=</b>
<b>Strength</b>	
<b>Boy</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>5 loaves &amp; 2 fish</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Jesus</b>	<b>=</b>

<b>Food for 5000 men</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Food for women and children</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>12 baskets</b>	
<b>Widow</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>1 cake</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>God</b>	<b>=</b>

<b>1 cake</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3 people</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>365 days</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3 years of famine</b>	<b>=</b>
<b>3285 cakes</b>	