



A Moral Budget: It Doesn't take a Miracle Loaves and Fishes Day of Action

Washington is in gridlock over the federal budget. Politicians are squabbling over taxes and spending cuts. Influencing the negotiations feels impossible, and yet the consequences of these budget decisions will deeply affect our communities, especially the most vulnerable among us. The faith community must raise its voice.

In the Christian tradition, we know of God's plan for abundance for His people through Jesus' miracle of multiplying the loaves and fishes. Bringing this story to life, you can join with other faith groups to rebut the austerity myth in the budget debate and urge your lawmakers to pass a moral budget that asks the wealthy to pay their fair share and protects the poor and vulnerable.

We know that "it doesn't take a miracle" to pass a moral budget. On March 20, we'll tell them.

What is the Loaves and Fishes day of action?

On March 20, 2013, faith groups large and small from across the country will participate in a day of action to raise the voices of our communities and demand a moral budget that asks the wealthy to pay their fair share. Whether it's a press conference outside your legislator's office, or a discussion in your congregation about federal budget priorities, you can help illustrate the miracle of the loaves and fishes to influence the budget debate in Washington. Everyone will share Facebook content and tweet using a common hashtag.

Together we will create a powerful narrative that Congress will not be able to ignore.

What can I do?

This day of action is very open-source, and you should think creatively to customize it to the needs of your community and ministry. Is your priority Medicaid? Raising revenue on the wealthy? School programs? Here are some ideas:

- 1) Do a loaves and fishes delivery at your elected representative's office.
- 2) Watch a 2-minute video and ask your congregation to write letters to Congress asking for a moral budget.
- 3) If connected to school or children's center, get youth to do paper cut-outs of loaves and fish and send them to representatives.
- 4) Using a clergy guide on the federal budget, host a fish-and-bread meal at your church and discuss the federal budget.
- 5) Ask your elected representatives to read the Gospel passage of the loaves and fishes in a public forum.
- 6) Ask any of your contacts in Washington, DC to participate in the DC press event on Capitol Hill.
- 7) Tweet, retweet, and Facebook anything that you do!

What does a loaves and fishes delivery look like?

Well, we've never done it and we're looking forward to creatively collaborating with you! These are the major components (that we will provide to you): a big banner that reads: "It doesn't take a miracle." On the bread loaves can be written names of programs that face cuts: Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Social Security, Foreign Aid, etc. After the press conference, try to deliver loaves and fishes to lawmakers' offices. Ideally both the bread and the fish will be real to make both a splash and a stink!

TOOLKIT:

Faith in Public Life can provide your community with the following materials:

1. A large banner than says “it doesn’t take a miracle.”
2. Downloadable signs to print, as well as Loaves and fish graphics.
3. A fill-in-the-blank press release and media advisory.
4. Talking points for spokespeople
5. A brief video detailing the fiscal cliff debate and how faith communities can make a difference.
6. Clergy guide on the federal budget
7. Social media plan (hashtag and sharable Facebook content).

The deadline to sign up is March 1. Your event will be included in national press releases and social media. Ready to sign up? Have questions? Please contact: Meghan Blickman, Campaigns Coordinator: mblickman@faithinpubliclife.org.