



## A Moral Budget: It Doesn't Take a Miracle Loaves and Fishes Action

North Carolina policymakers are crafting a budget that will set out the state's priorities for the next two years. Like the naysayers in the crowds for whom Jesus performed the miracles of the loaves and fishes in Mark 6:31-44, state leaders are saying that there isn't enough money to go around, not enough to meet our basic needs. But this scarcity is self-inflicted and there is another way, one that does not require a miracle. In 2013 lawmakers cut taxes substantially and in a way that heavily favors the state's wealthiest residents and profitable corporations. The average North Carolina now pays an additional \$80 in state taxes while at the same time funding for public goods in our state has been slashed by over \$1 billion each year. Influencing this debate may feel impossible but the costs of not acting are too high. 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 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 "it doesn't take a miracle" to pass a moral budget.**

**Let's talk about how shared investments matter in our communities and why a fair tax system makes that possible.**

This action seeks to raise the voices of our communities and demand a moral budget that asks the wealthy to pay their fair share and pursues smart investments that build an economy that works for all. You can help illustrate the power of loaves and fishes to influence the budget debate in Raleigh by detaching the note below and sending it to your State Senator and Representative.

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



	<b>It Doesn't Take a Miracle</b>
	I urge you to pass a moral budget, one that invests in the programs and services that support a strong economy that works for all by ensuring that revenue is raised fairly.
	_____
	_____
	add your note here
	_____
	_____
	Thank you for making smart investments.
	Name:
	Address:
	Email:

### **What else 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 health care low-income North Carolinians? Asking the wealthy to contribute more to the common good? More resources for public schools and pre-K? Here are some ideas:

- 1) Do a loaves and fishes delivery at your elected representative's office with an explanation of your congregations support for a moral budget. You can use real bread and fish or postcards!
- 2) Show a short video on the Earned Income Tax Credit or the importance of state investments and ask your congregation to write letters to the North Carolina General Assembly asking for a moral budget.
- 3) If connected to a school or children's center, get youth to do paper cut-outs of loaves and fish and send them to legislators in Raleigh.
- 4) Using the NC Council of Churches guide to fair taxation or materials from NC Justice on the state budget and tax policy, host a fish-and-bread meal at your church and discuss the state budget.
- 5) Ask your elected representatives to read the Gospel passage of the loaves and fishes in a public forum.
- 6) Tweet, retweet, and Facebook anything that you do!



Insert Name of Your Representative/ Senator

NC General Assembly  
16 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601