

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15



The Story

One day, Jesus and His disciples needed rest, so they traveled in a boat across the Sea of Galilee to a place where not many people lived. They hoped that by doing this they would be able—at least for a little while—to avoid the large crowds of people who always gathered around Jesus in other parts of Galilee.

When Jesus and His disciples got to where they were going, they found that many people had followed them there, too. Jesus and the disciples would not be able to rest, as they had hoped; but instead of becoming angry, Jesus taught the people about the Kingdom of God, and He healed those who were sick.

Jesus knew that soon the crowds of people would be very hungry, so He tested the faith of His twelve disciples by asking them where they could get food, so that all these crowds of people could eat. The disciples

knew that they couldn't buy food for that many people, but they should have remembered that Jesus is the Son of God, and then turned to Him in faith to meet whatever the needs might be. Instead, their faith was weak, and they thought there was no way to solve the problem.

Jesus knew all along what He would do. He performed a miracle. He took five loaves of bread, and two broiled fish, and had the disciples pass them out to the people. Jesus caused the bread and fish to increase, so that when they were all finished, 5,000 men had eaten all they wanted, and there were still twelve baskets full of fish and bread left over.

By performing this miracle, Jesus not only gave His disciples a lesson about faith, He also proved that He is the Son of God, the Messiah promised in the Bible, who would save us from our sins.

Jesus feeds five thousand men.

We can trust Jesus to provide food for us.

Activity One - *Who Remembers the Story?* Teacher, read the following questions and answers to the class one set at a time, and have the students circle the letter of the right answer. Alternatively, read all the answers, then have the pupils raise their hands for the correct answer as you read the answers a second time. After each question, give the right answer. Do this as a game, rather than as a quiz. This also provides review/reteach opportunities.

1. Jesus and His disciples needed rest, so they went to
 - A. Disneyland.
 - B. bed.
 - C. a place where not many people lived.
 - D. Jerusalem.

2. When Jesus and the disciples got to where they were going,
 - A. they spent the day resting.
 - B. many people were already there.
 - C. they became lost.
 - D. they went for a hike.

3. Which of the following things did Jesus **NOT** do?
 - A. teach the people about the Kingdom of God
 - B. heal those who were sick
 - C. perform a miracle to feed all the people
 - D. tell the crowds to go away, so that He could rest

4. What mistake did the disciples make?
 - A. they couldn't catch any fish
 - B. they tried to sneak away, to get some rest
 - C. they brought too much food
 - D. they didn't simply trust Jesus to be able take care of any need, including this one (feeding the people)

5. What great truth should we remember from this lesson?
 - A. The works Jesus did prove that He is the Son of God.
 - B. Always take extra food when you go on a trip.
 - C. The disciples always applied their faith in the right way.
 - D. Jesus was not popular with the people of Galilee.

Activity Two - Art Work - Teacher, have the students draw pictures illustrating the following themes (You may wish to prepare in advance a few "outline" pictures for coloring in, in case some pupils balk at drawing their own):

1. Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 people, using only five barley loaves and two fish.
2. Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee in a boat.
3. The disciples didn't know how to solve the problem of feeding so many people.
4. (Not a "theme") Draw loaves and fish, showing how many of each Jesus used to feed 5,000 people.

Passage - Teacher, explain the meaning of this Scripture ("the miracles performed by Jesus prove that He is truly the Son of God, and our Savior from sin"), and spend five minutes helping the children to memorize it.

**The works that I do in My Father's name,
they bear witness of Me. John 10:25**

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #644

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**