

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; 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.

Jesus had become very popular with many of the people of Galilee, but His popularity was mostly because of the miracles He performed. This was not what Jesus wanted. He wanted the people to understand about the Kingdom of God, and about how He would suffer and die to pay for the sins of all people. Most of the people, though, were much more interested in what Jesus would do for their physical needs than in what He would do for their spiritual needs.

When Jesus and His disciples arrived at 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. This is what Jesus Himself says about the purpose of His miracles:

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

Because the works done by Jesus prove that He is the Messiah (the Son of God, promised as the Savior of the World), we can believe His Word, and trust Him to forgive our sins, and to also meet all our true needs.

Jesus feeds five thousand men.

We can trust Jesus to provide food for us.

Activity One - Who remembers the story? - Read the following questions and answers. Circle the letter of the right answer.

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.

Passage - Fill in the blanks in the Bible passage, using the words in the box.

Father's

Me

works

witness

The _____ that I do in My _____ name, they bear
_____ of _____. *John 10:25*

Activity Two - Art work; draw a picture showing one of the following.

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. In feeding 5,000 people, Jesus used two fish and five loaves of bread.

Hymn - 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.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, help us always to remember that You are the promised Messiah, Who has saved us from our sins, as Your miracles prove. We pray that You will send to us the Holy Spirit, to make us strong in the faith as we study Your Holy Word, so that we will always trust in You to meet all our needs, no matter what the situation may be. Amen.