



LET HIM BE KNOWN

Feeding the 5,000

WEEK 4

WARM-UP

- What is your comfort food after a long day?
- Share about a time you were so hungry that you ate something you do not normally eat.
- Share about a time that you had a hard time getting something to eat. What happened? What did you do?

WORD *¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. . . . ³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

JOHN 6:11, 35

(Read also **JOHN 6:5-14.**)

In the middle of His ministry, great crowds followed Jesus because He was healing the sick. When Jesus saw that the crowd had gone long without food, He responded to their need and miraculously fed 5,000 men, along with the women and children with them. How does this miracle point to who Jesus is? Let's look at how Jesus meets both our physical and deepest needs.

1 | Jesus saw that the crowd was hungry.

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" **JOHN 6:5**

Jesus identified the need of the crowd for food before anyone spoke or complained. He took initiative and asked His disciple, Philip, where they could buy bread for the multitude of people there. Then the disciple Andrew found a boy who had only five loaves of bread and two fish, but knew that wouldn't be enough to feed everyone. Jesus took the food that could have fed some and used it to feed all. What do these actions say about Jesus?

2 | Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000.

¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. **JOHN 6:11-13**

Jesus seated the crowd, gave thanks to God, and miraculously multiplied the five loaves of bread and two fish until each person in the crowd had eaten their fill, as much as they wanted. More than that, there were so many leftover fragments that twelve baskets were filled with pieces of bread. What does this abundance of provision say about how Jesus provides?

3 | Jesus was recognized by the people as the Prophet.

When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" **JOHN 6:14**

God promised His people from the start that He would raise a prophet like Moses for them that they would listen to (Deuteronomy 18:15). Jesus' miraculous feeding of the crowd convinced them that He is someone extraordinary, perhaps the prophet God had promised to send. What part of the miracle do you think convinced the crowd? (See Exodus 16:15.)

The fourth sign clearly shows that Jesus is someone who anticipates our needs before we speak them, cares for us, and meets our needs in abundance. He cares about us and provides for us. Like Moses, Jesus fulfilled the role of a prophet sent by God and provided bread from heaven—which we discover in the rest of John 6 is His own body. All who partake of Him will receive and experience eternal life.

APPLICATION

- After reading about this miracle, what do you think this says about who Jesus is and who He is in your life?
- Do you see Jesus as someone who cares and provides for your daily needs? What is something you can do this week to deepen your understanding of who Jesus is?
- Is there anyone who needs to hear about this miracle and how Jesus cares for our daily needs? How can you share it with this person this week?

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for taking the initiative to see our needs and providing for us even before we ask.
- Pray that you will always be sensitive to how Jesus moves in your life to provide for your daily needs.
- Ask God for the grace to share about Jesus' love, care, and provision with your family members and friends this week.

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