

JESUS FEEDS 5,000 PEOPLE

*Matthew 14:14-21; 15:32-39; Mark 6:34-44; 8:1-9;
Luke 9:12-17; John 6:16-21*



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY

John 6:48

I am the bread of life.



October 30, 2011



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

Before this story, John the Baptist, the guy who prepared the way for Jesus, was put in prison for speaking ill of Herod's wife. He was subsequently thrown into prison, but was not immediately killed because Herod liked John. Herod's wife did not like John, however, and came up with a plan to have him beheaded. The plan worked beautifully and John the Baptist's head was delivered on a silver platter. John's disciples took care of his body, then went and told Jesus what had happened.



¹³When Jesus got the news, he slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by himself. But unsuccessfully--someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. ¹⁴When he saw them coming, he was overcome with pity and healed their sick.

¹⁵Toward evening the disciples approached him. "We're out in the country and it's getting late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper." ¹⁶But Jesus said, "There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper." ¹⁷"All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish," they said. ¹⁸Jesus said, "Bring them here."

¹⁹Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. ²⁰They all ate their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. ²¹About five thousand were fed.

[Matthew 14:13-21]



LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

A Display of Jesus' Humanity and his Divinity

Jesus had just learned that his dear cousin and friend was killed. He could have easily and justifiably secluded himself from the crowd and spent the day in mourning. I imagine that even modern day readers of this account would not fault the Son of God if that was the choice he had made. Being human ourselves, we would easily understand. However, that was not Jesus' choice. Instead, the Bible tells us that Jesus was moved with compassion on the crowd who had followed him. He healed the sick among them. Jesus' choice shows us a model of what it means to be a holy person of God (divinely-influenced) amidst our humanity.

Jesus, the Bread of Life

God provided manna (bread-like food) in the desert for the Israelites. Jesus is our sustenance, our life blood, the creator of our soul. Just like "bread" (food) sustains our bodies, so does the Lord hold us up. "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11).



QUESTIONS

REMEMBERING

- 1. What close friend of Jesus was killed by King Herod?** John the Baptist
- 2. When Jesus heard the news about John the Baptist, where did he go?** An out-of-the-way place
- 3. Who followed Jesus to this "out-of-the-way place"?** A lot of people from the nearby villages and towns
- 4. What did Jesus say to the disciples when they told him to dismiss the crowd because it was getting late?** "There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper" (Matthew 14:16)
- 5. What kind of food and how much did the disciples find in the crowd?** Five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish
- 6. How many people were fed by this small amount of food?** Around 5,000
- 7. How many baskets of food were leftover?** 12 baskets



COLORING SHEET

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