

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 11

*The Feeding of the 5000*

# The Feeding of the 5000

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

**Objective** This lesson will use the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 to point to the fact that Jesus satisfies their needs both physically and spiritually.

## Key Verses

John 6:1-14—Main Teaching Passage

Matt. 14:12-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17(Parallel Passage)

John 6:22-71

**Memory Verse** - John 6:51a

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;"

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Mark 2:17b.

Ask the class how many of them ate something for dinner last night. Then ask how many have eaten something else since then. Act surprised that they would want or need food when they ate something the day before.

When we eat, it doesn't last us forever. We eventually get hungry and need food again. In today's story, Jesus is going to provide for someone's hunger, but then He is going to show the people that they have a greater need than food.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

At the start of today's story, a large crowd of over 5,000 people (5,000 men, plus women and children) had gathered to see Jesus because they had heard of all the miracles He had done. After a while, Jesus turned to His disciple Philip and asked where they planned on getting food for all these people. Philip replied that such a request was ridiculous, and that it would cost 200 days' pay, or about \$35,000 in today's money, to feed this crowd. John tells us that Jesus's question was a test, since Jesus already knew what was going to happen. Then, another disciple named Andrew (Peter's brother) brought a small child to Jesus. This child had brought five small loaves of bread and two fish and offered them to Jesus. Still, the disciples wondered how such a small amount could make a difference when they had so many mouths to feed. However, Jesus asked the disciples to have the crowd take a seat, and they obeyed. Next, He took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it into pieces to distribute to the crowd. Miraculously, those five loaves became enough bread for the entire multitude. Jesus did the same thing with the fish. The Bible says that He gave out so much food that not only did everyone eat, but they were able to have as much as they wanted. When everyone was done, the disciples collected the leftovers and came up with twelve baskets full of extra food. The people were amazed at the wonderful miracle Jesus had done.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK

John 6 gives us the only two miracles that are recorded in all four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell us what happened, but John goes further in verses 22-71 and explains what this miracle means. Jesus wanted to feed these people to meet their physical needs to be sure, but He had a much greater ultimate purpose than that. Jesus performed this miracle to show the crowd how dependent they needed to be on Him.

When the people asked Jesus for more food, Jesus reminded them of the Israelites in the wilderness. We learned last year that when Israel wandered in the desert for forty years, God provided manna for them to eat every day. This bread-like food reminded the people that God was the one who daily provided them with food as well as all their other needs. When Jesus gave bread to these people, He was demonstrating that it was He who provided for all of their needs. However, this went beyond physical needs. Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life, indicating that He is the answer to every man's spiritual needs as well.

# LOOK (Continued)

When the people came to Jesus, they were hoping that He would relieve their physical hunger. However, that would do them no good. After all, they would just get hungry and need food again the next day. When the people came back for more food, He told them that He is the Bread of Life. Notice that He didn't say "I *provide* the bread of life." Jesus *is* that Bread, the thing we need for true, full life. While those who ate His physical bread got hungry again, Jesus said that He is the source of ultimate, everlasting satisfaction.

Just like in the story, today Jesus still provides our physical needs. We may have food in the fridge and parents with jobs who provide it, but God still gives us the job, body, and money we need for those things. However, we should not miss the point that Jesus provides what we really need, what will really satisfy, nourish, and sustain us: Himself. Jesus offers us the only Bread that can give us eternal life. More than we need food to nourish our physical bodies, we need Jesus to save us from our sins and restore us to friendship with God forever as His sons and daughters. Our physical hunger can serve as a great reminder that just like we need food to survive, even more so we need Jesus.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

# TOOK

As a class, memorize John 6:51a.

Review the lesson by asking the class how Jesus provided for the people in today's story. What does that tell us about who He is?

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for providing for our physical and spiritual needs. Ask Him for faith to trust Him to be our Bread of Life.

**Parent Question:** What did Jesus mean when He called Himself "the Bread of Life"?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on John 6:1-14 by David Guzik

### *The Bread from Heaven*

A. Preparation for the miracle.

1. ([Jhn 6:1-4](#)) A crowd gathers to Jesus near the Sea of Galilee.

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is *the Sea* of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

a. **Then a great multitude followed Him:** In this miracle, Jesus went out to a deserted place to be alone ([Luke 9:10](#)), yet the crowds followed Him there. In spite of this imposition, Jesus still ministered to the multitude with great compassion.

b. **They saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased:** [Luke 9:11](#) tells us that Jesus also taught this multitude, something that John doesn't specifically mention.

c. **The Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near:** John is the only one of the four gospel writers (all four describe this miracle) who tells us this took place near the time of the Passover. Perhaps this **great multitude** was made up of Galilean pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem.

i. Passover is associated with the Exodus and God's sustenance of Israel in the wilderness. Jesus will sustain this multitude in their small "wilderness" with bread from heaven - both literally and spiritually.

2. ([Jhn 6:5-7](#)) Jesus asks Philip a question.

Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

a. **Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?** Why did Jesus ask Philip this question? Maybe because he was from Bethsaida ([John 1:44](#)) and this is near where this miracle took place ([Luke 9:10](#)).

b. **He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do:** Jesus also lets His followers participate in the work of the Kingdom, even when He has things planned out.

c. **Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient:** Their problem is in two parts. First, they don't have the resources to feed the multitude. Second, even if they did have the money it would be impossible to purchase enough bread to feed them all.

d. Philip's knowledge of the situation was accurate and impressive (**two hundred denarii** is more than six month's wages), but his knowledge was useless in getting the problem solved.

i. Philip thought in terms of money; and how much money it would take to carry out God's work in a *small* way (**every one of them may have a little**). We often limit God the same way, looking for how God's work can be done in the smallest way.

3. ([Jhn 6:8-9](#)) Andrew's help.

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

a. **Five barley loaves:** Barley was always regarded as simple fare, more often fit for animals than for men. In the Talmud, there is a passage where one man says, "There is a fine crop of barley" and another man answers, "Tell it to the horses and donkeys."

b. **What are they among so many?** There isn't much to work with here, but God doesn't need much. "Small things are not always contemptible. It all depends on the hands in which they are." (Taylor)

i. In fact, God doesn't *need* any help - but He often deliberately restrains His work until He has our participation.

B. The five thousand are fed.

1. ([Jhn 6:10](#)) Jesus commands the group to sit down.

Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

a. **Make the people sit down:** Jesus here takes authority as the Lord; as a loving shepherd, He makes His "sheep" to lie down on green pastures. He fulfills [Psalm 23:1-2](#): *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

b. **The men sat down, in number about five thousand:** Jesus administered everything in an orderly way. Creation shows us that God is a God of order and organization.

2. ([Jhn 6:11](#)) The five thousand are fed.

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

a. **Jesus took the loaves ... He distributed them to the disciples:** The miracle resided in the hands of Jesus, not in the distribution. Little is much in His hands.

b. Bread comes from grain, which has the power of multiplication and reproduction within itself. But when it is made into bread, the grain is crushed, making it "dead" - no one ever multiplied wheat by planting flour. But Jesus can bring life from death.

3. ([Jhn 6:12-13](#)) Gathering up the fragments of the feast.

So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

a. **Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost:** The disciples gathered the leftovers at the

command of Jesus. Jesus is generous, but not wasteful.

b. Should the disciples have anticipated what Jesus could do, or should do in this situation? There was enough evidence both in the Old Testament and in what Jesus had already done to give them a confident expectation of what Jesus would do here.

i. Old Testament passages warn against doubting God's provision: *Yes, they spoke against God: They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?"* ([Psalm 78:19](#)) 2 Kings 4:38-34 is an example of God multiplying barley loaves, though this is on a much greater scale.

ii. Yet, Jesus used His disciples even though they did not understand - they got to participate in the miracle.

iii. Jesus demonstrated to them the giving character of God - the same character God desires to build within us. [Proverbs 11:24](#) says, *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.* This bread was multiplied as it was "scattered."

C. The reaction to the miracle.

1. ([Jhn 6:14](#)) Jesus as the Prophet predicted by Moses.

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

a. **Truly this is the Prophet:** The **Prophet** they expected was predicted by Moses: *The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.* ([Deuteronomy 18:15](#))

b. **When they had seen the sign that Jesus did:** The way Jesus provided bread in the wilderness reminded **those men** of Moses in the wilderness, and his promise of a coming **Prophet**. It is true that Moses provided bread in the wilderness; so does Jesus. But Jesus goes on to explain that He is far more than a new Moses.