

Jesus Fed a Crowd

Bible Passage: Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6

STORY POINT: Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish.

Key Passage: Psalm 40:5

Bible Story: Open your Bible to Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Fed a Crowd.”

Sometimes I think about how frustrated the disciples probably felt at the start of this story. They were tired, hungry, and trying to get a break from the crowd of people who all followed Jesus. When they saw the huge crowd waiting for Jesus on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, they probably had a lot of anger bubbling up inside them. I know I would have.

But how did Jesus respond? The Bible tells us that He saw them and felt compassion. He knew that the crowd was filled with people who were like lost sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and He wanted to take care of the people.

Now think back to the disciples again. As it got later and later, they finally had a chance to get away from the crowd by sending them to go get food. If I had been one of the disciples when Jesus told me to give them food, I might have lost my temper. If being tired, hungry, and surrounded by strangers weren't irritating enough, now Jesus was asking the disciples to do something that was essentially impossible. But it was only impossible for them. Nothing is impossible for God.

Jesus didn't say, “Don't worry, I'm going to do a miracle to feed everyone.” Instead, He helped His disciples take on the challenge a little bit at a time. First, they found what little food was available. Then, they helped get the whole crowd seated. Next, they passed out the food bit by bit. It's possible they kept expecting the food to run out after each person. But by the end, they had gathered more in leftovers than they had to begin with! Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish.

Bible Story Video: [Watch Video](#)

Big Picture Question: Our big picture question is all about Jesus' miracles. Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people. A miracle is something amazing done with God's power that would normally be impossible. Jesus' miracles showed love by healing and saving people. His miracles glorified God by proving His power and goodness. They also showed that Jesus is the Son of God because no one else could have done what He did. Let's learn about another miracle now.

Christ Connection: In a way, this can help us see what following Jesus can be like. We won't usually know ahead of time what God's plan for us is. Sometimes we might feel frustrated or overwhelmed. But we can trust Jesus each step of the way. His plans are perfect. He will help us push through and obey.

By feeding the five thousand, Jesus provided for the physical needs of the crowd. The next day, Jesus called Himself the bread of life. (John 6:35) Only Jesus is able to satisfy our souls forever by providing forgiveness, peace with God, and eternal life.

Discussion: *Why had Jesus and His disciples crossed over the Sea of Galilee? (to be alone, Matt. 14:13)

*What did the disciples want to do with the hungry crowd of people? (send them away to buy their own food, Matt. 14:15)

*How many baskets full of leftovers did the disciples gather? (12, Matt. 14:20)

*What does this story show about Jesus? Guide kids to think about the compassion Jesus shows. Jesus wants to meet the needs of people. He met their physical needs by healing them and feeding them, but also meets spiritual needs. Jesus taught about God before dying on the cross and rising again. Jesus' work made the way for us to be forgiven and have eternal life with God.

*Why did Jesus call himself the bread of life? Guide kids to think about the role of bread in Old Testament stories. Remind them about the manna God provided and the significance of the unleavened bread at Passover. Help them see that, just as bread represents a basic necessity—food—Jesus is necessary to have spiritual life with God.

*How can we learn to trust Jesus more? Guide kids to discuss ways we can grow in faith, such as studying the Bible, gathering together as a church, praying, and even fasting. Help kids understand what those disciplines are and how we do them.

Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish. Jesus met the physical needs of the crowd by satisfying their hunger. He will meet all our spiritual needs. He satisfies our soul, provides forgiveness, and promises eternal life.