

The Signs in John's Gospel

Week 4: Jesus feeds the five thousand

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

WORSHIP

Share stories of when God has provided for your needs, particularly in an unusual or surprising way.

Have a time of thanksgiving prayer for God's provision: in his daily provision; in unusual and surprising ways; and in the miraculous?

WORD

Read John 6.1-15

1. Why do you think the people went out to see Jesus without bringing along any food?
2. Why did Jesus ask Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" It may be helpful to refer back to John 2.1-3.
3. What does Andrew do in response to Jesus question to Philip?
4. What can we learn from the way Philip and Andrew respond?

Growth Group Notes

Spring 2021



John makes a point of saying that the Jewish Passover Festival was near (v4) in the preamble to the miraculous feeding of the five thousand. He clearly wants us to make a connection between this miracle and the Passover, when God, working through the prophet Moses, freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness to the promised land. While on that wandering journey God fed the Israelites with “bread from heaven” (Exodus 16.4) which they called manna (Exodus 16.31). Deuteronomy 18.14-22 foretells that the God would raise up a prophet like Moses, that is someone that would lead them from slavery to freedom.

5. So what do you think is going on in John 6.14-15?

Read John 6.25-35

6. Why does Jesus rebuke the crowd in vv26-27?

7. What does Jesus say that God requires of them (vv28-29)?

Verse 35 is the first of Jesus’ “I am” sayings – a further link to Moses. When Moses receives his calling, God says to Moses, “I am who I am” (Exodus 3.14).

8. What does Jesus mean when he says, “I am the bread of life.”

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WHAT NEXT?

What problems are we facing that seem to have no solutions?

Bring these problems to the Lord in prayer.

Prayer Ministry and Intercession

Ask if anyone would like to be prayed for or have other prayer requests.

For personal reflection

The little boy offered his lunch of “five small barley loaves and two small fish” to Jesus. Andrew said, “but how far will they go among so many?”

Are there things in your life that perhaps you consider to be so insignificant that they are not worth offering to Jesus. Your gifts, talents, time, experience, tithe etc. Perhaps they are more significant than you think! In your act of offering them, Jesus can transform them and multiple them for his glory!