

Today we have the well-known story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. Read from the Story Bible, Bible or watch the video lesson first and then, let's dive a little deeper into this parable.

After a busy time of preaching and doing miracles, Jesus suggested to his disciples that they go away with him and rest. Yes, Jesus was human and he too needed rest just like we do. Jesus and his disciples traveled to the other side of the Sea of Galilee to rest. But when he arrived on the shore, the crowds were already waiting for him. How would you feel if you were tired and went to rest and then someone needed your help? Would you be willing to delay your rest and serve them? Jesus did just that. He loved them and wanted to take care of their needs so he taught and healed the people who were there.

When it started to get late, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away to buy food. The disciples knew that the people needed food. We all need things like food, clothing, and a home to stay healthy and safe. Instead of sending the people away to find food, Jesus took this opportunity to show his power. He told his disciples to give food to the crowd. That seemed impossible, right? Not for Jesus. Why did Jesus ask Philip where to get the bread? Was he relying on Philip to solve the problem? Not at all. Jesus was testing him. Philip and the disciples had already been witness to Jesus power and his miracles several times during his ministry. They had seen him turn water into wine, calm a storm, heal the Centurion's servant and even raise Jairus' daughter from the dead! The disciples could only think of earthly ways to feed all the people, and earthly limitations. Philip pointed out that even if the disciples spent a lot of money, it wouldn't be enough for each person to get one bite. Andrew found a boy with five small loaves and two small fish- but how far would that go among so many? Their solutions were limited to how much money they had and how much food was available. They didn't even consider the idea that Jesus could provide with his almighty power. Often times we worry about things that we need in life. God can use times like these to strengthen our faith and teach us to trust in him.

Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down. He thanked God for the food in the little boy's lunch and broke it and gave it to the disciples and had them hand it out to the crowd. Miraculously, everyone had plenty to eat and there was even food left over! Jesus had provided more than they needed. It is true for us as well. Jesus has blessed us beyond what we truly need, hasn't he? We can always trust in him to provide.

Give us today our daily bread.

Jesus doesn't miraculously make food appear on your dinner table each night, right? God doesn't provide food for us in that way. Think about a loaf of bread that you might have in your pantry at home. How did God provide that? God send sunshine and rain to make the grain grow in the fields. He gave farmers that ability to plant, take care of and harvest the grain. God gave factory workers the ability to turn the grain into bread. He blessed the truck drivers who took the bread to the store and the store clerks who sold the bread, and he made them all able to do their jobs. God has given us the adults in our lives who work to earn money to buy bread and all the other things that we need.

God provides all that we need for our daily lives. Let's thank God every day for the blessings he gives us!

PRAY: Dearest God, through Jesus' miracle you show us that we can trust you to take care of all our earthly needs. We thank and praise you for your goodness. Amen.

Want to share your artwork with us?

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to office@gsholmen.org

*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements