

Bread, Baskets, and Boats . . . Oh, My!

Pastor Jeff Thompson | John 6:1-21

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion, or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you saw God's provision.

Understanding the Text in Context

Read the text together. The feeding of the 5,000 is recorded in all four Gospels. John is the only one that records the conversation with Philip. What's Jesus' motivation (v. 6)? Discuss the insight that gives as this story unfolds.

What was Jesus showing by His protection and provision in John 6:16-21? (Read Psalm 107:28-30).

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

What do the people get right about Jesus? (See John 6:14 and Deut. 18:15.) What do they – wrongly – want to do (v. 15)? How does this help us (after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection) appreciate more – and more correctly – who Jesus is as "King of Kings"? (Note the phrase: "the Cross comes before the Crown" [See also Philippians 2:8-11])

How do the miracles of the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on the water point to the identity of Jesus? What character traits of his stand out as you think about these miracles and Jesus' own words?

Living Out the Truth

It takes faith to believe in Jesus and to follow him, and it took faith to believe the few loaves and fish would feed so many. Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. How is faith, obeying and trusting God, essential to the life of a believer?

What in your life (time, gifts, obedience, etc) can you offer to the Lord?

When you pray, are you seeking Jesus or what he can do for you? How can we focus our prayer on the Person while still being grateful for all His generous provision?

What is a source of anxiety in your life right now? How is that competing for your attention? How does Jesus' declaration of "It is I; do not be afraid" (v. 20) challenge the way you are viewing that situation today?

Pray together and for one another.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Read the text together. Discuss as a family the following questions:

- Have you ever faced something that felt impossible?
- What do these stories teach us about God's ability compared to our ability?
- Why is it important to remember that Jesus is not limited by our resources, strength, or understanding?

Further Study

A few articles:

- [Why the Feeding of the 5,000 Is an Extraordinary Story for Kids to Understand](#)
- [Walking on the Sea of Galilee](#)
- [How Can We Understand Jesus' I Am Sayings With Our Senses?](#)

Looking ahead to next week's Sermon and Text: Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 6:22-59: "The Works," "Back to the Wilderness," and "The Will."