

# Life Groups

## Signposts to Jesus



• 2026

• TOPIC 4 • JOHN 6:1-21

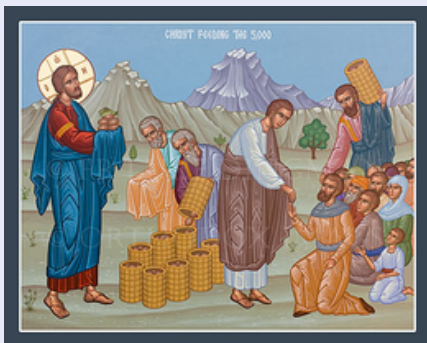
### Topic

Feeding the multitudes.

### First Thoughts

“From the Synoptic Gospels, we know that the disciples have just returned from their mission. John the Baptist has just been executed (Matthew 14:13), and that Jesus and his disciples are trying to take a break from the multitudes to a solitary place (Mark 6:31).” - Wilson

The miracle takes place on a mountainside near Bethsaida, the town where Philip the disciple comes from. Rather than finding respite and time to mourn his cousin John, Jesus is followed by the large crowd.



1. How important is it for you personally to have quiet moments away from the madness of life?

2. How do you think people feel when they just don't have enough resources?

### Focus

Jesus and his disciples head across the lake to Bethsaida. The location is in the modern day Golan Heights and its name literally means, “house of fishermen”. This region was ruled by Philip Herod, son of Herod the Great and brother of Herod Antipas. Jesus performed several miracles here and we are told that three of the apostles are from this region.

### The Scriptures

 Read John 5:1-15

What reason are we given for the large crowds following Jesus? See v2

Why do you think Jesus asks his question of Philip and not the other disciples? See v5

### Going Further

1. This miracle appears in each of the four gospels. Why do you think this might be the case?
2. Read Exodus 16:6-8. What connections might John be making between this account and that in Exodus?
3. Some have suggested Jesus was testing his disciples. Do you agree with this suggestion?
4. Andrew also responds to Jesus. How is his response different from that of Philip?
5. In this account of the miracle Jesus gives thanks over the bread. Do you think this is significant to John?

## Going Further continued

6. Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples to collect up the fragments?
7. How do you think the young boy felt after seeing what Jesus did with his “packed lunch”?

## Life Application

1. What lesson is John telling his readers about the ability of God to provide (both here and at the wedding in Cana)?
2. Is there also a lesson in trusting God with the little we have? What might that look like?
3. A willingness to share a few small things led to an overflow of blessing. Do you think this still happens today?
4. This miracle reminds us that we ought to come as we are and bring what we have to Jesus. The rest is up to him. Is there anything you need to surrender or give to God today?

***“Don’t worry about Christ running out of ability to help you. His grace is sufficient. That is the spiritual, eternal lesson of the feeding of the 5000.”***

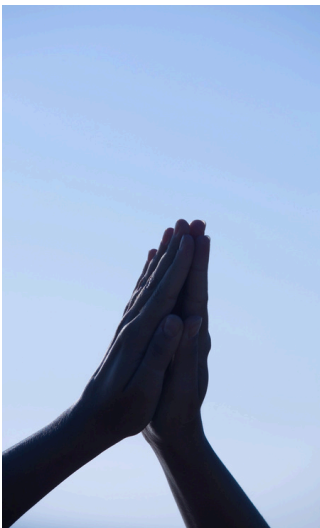
***- Jeffrey R Holland***

***“There would have been one great deed fewer in history if the boy had withheld his loaves and fishes.”***

***- William Barclay***

## Prayer

Dear Father,



You are our Creator and Sustainer. When You open Your hand, You satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. And so we look to You whenever we are in need, trusting in Your love and Your abundant goodness.

We pray for those who are physically hungry. We pray for those who are empty emotionally, who may be lonely and long for companionship and love. For those who are caught in the grip of depression, or overwhelmed with grief. We pray for those who are spiritually empty, who are troubled, but don’t know where to turn. Father God, fill us with Your Spirit. Give us Your compassion and love, so that we would willingly share some of our abundance with those who have need.

Amen

## To finish

Take a few moments to pray with the people in your group, or for those you may know, that are struggling to make ends meet. Also take some time to ask the Holy Spirit to show you where He may be asking you to hand something over to Him.

Ask God to guide us and enable us to be a caring, sharing people who see the need in others and are willing to help whenever and wherever we can.