



Session 4 Feeding the 5,000
week starting March 22, 2020

One of the few miracles included in all four gospels, the story of the feeding of the five thousand represents the sign-post of God's generosity. This story likely takes place one year before Palm Sunday. Jesus' miraculous provision for those who came to hear His teaching about the Kingdom and receive healing demonstrates that God is not a god of scarcity but abundance. He uses the small things we offer Him and He multiplies them.

GETTING STARTED

Do you prefer to socialize at large parties, have dinner for four, or spend a quiet evening with a friend? Why?

DISCUSSION

- Read John 6:1–4. What attracted people to Jesus in this story? What might attract people to Jesus today as He works through you?
- In the first passover, God feeds a great multitude with bread from heaven. What point might Jesus be making by feeding this multitude? Does it have anything to do with the nearness of the upcoming passover?
- Read John 6:57. Why might Jesus have chosen to ask Philip about feeding the people?
- What happens when we realize that only Jesus can overcome a problem we are facing?
- Barley loaves would have been considered a second class bread of the poor. While Jesus did not need help to feed the people, why might he have chosen to use the resources Andrew found that belonged to the boy? How does he do the same for us today?
- Read John 6:10–15. Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and divides the "elements" for the people. What do these words remind you of? Why might Jesus' practice of table fellowship be connected to this story?
- Jesus invites his disciples to participate in the miracle. What are some ways that He continues to invite us to participate in His miraculous provision for others that are near us?
- Though Jesus was already King, he would not allow them to "make him king by force." Why is this significant? How do people try to use Jesus as a political tool today?

LIVE IT OUT!

Jesus loves and brings healing to a man who has always been an outsider in society. Who in your sphere of influence is living outside of God's love? Discuss how you might introduce God's love to him/her this week.

PRAY

Lord, give us eyes to see those who are suffering or are paralyzed in some way. Show us how to love with your heart, and act with your hands and feet. Lead us to demonstrate your love and compassion to such a person this week.