

This weeks **MEMORY VERSE!**

To learn it well, **READ** it, or **WRITE** it **EACH DAY** after your lesson! Then say it to someone you know!

John 6:35

**"I (*Jesus*) am the bread of life;
whoever comes to Me shall not hunger,
and whoever believes in Me
shall never thirst.**

What is Jesus? _____

If you come to Jesus you will never _____

and if you believe in Him you will never _____.

* Italic added



Circle the right words to complete each statement.

1. Jesus gave thanks (for the crowd, for the food, for the boy).
2. The people ate until (they were full, the food was gone, until they were sick).
3. How much food was left over? (None, 6 baskets, 12 baskets)

Name _____

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

John 6:1-15; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17



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One afternoon Jesus taught and helped the people. As the sun began to go down in the west, His disciples came to Him and said, “Send the people away now, for they are getting hungry and need to eat. There is no place here to buy food; they must go to the villages nearby to buy food.”

Jesus looked at the tired, hungry people. Then He said to His disciples, “They don’t need to go away. We can feed them right here.”

Philip, one of His disciples, said, “But we don’t have the money to buy enough food for everyone to have even a little bit of food to eat.” The Lord was testing Philip and the other disciples to see if they believed that He could feed all these people. They had seen Him turn water into wine, heal many sick people, and do many other miracles. But they had not yet learned that Jesus is the Son of God who has the power to do anything.

Then Andrew, another disciple, came to Jesus. He too had been wondering where they could get food for all these hungry people. He said, “I have found a little boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two small fish, but what good will these be to feed such a large crowd of people?”

Jesus said to the disciples, “Tell all the people to sit down.” The people sat down in groups of fifty and one hundred, so it was easy to count them and to move around among them. There were 5000 men plus women and children. Everyone was eagerly watching to see what Jesus was going to do.

Jesus picked up the five little barley loaves of bread and two little fish. Then He bowed His head and prayed, thanking God for the food, which He had provided for them. Then He broke the bread and the fish into small pieces. He gave some to each of His disciples and told them to pass the bread and the fish to all the people.

The people could take as much as they wanted. No matter how much food a person took from the basket there was always enough left in it for the next person. The people ate all they wanted and there was still some left over!

Jesus told His disciples, “Take your baskets and pick up all that is left over, so that nothing is wasted.” The disciples moved through the crowd again, picking up all the leftover food. They each had a full basket when they came back, twelve baskets in all. This was more than they had when they started.

Just as it took a miracle for Jesus to change water into wine, so it took a miracle for Him to multiply the bread. Bread is made from flour, and flour from grain. God sends rain and sunshine to make the grain grow. Here Jesus made bread in a moment instead of over a period of months.

When the people saw what Jesus had done, they became very excited. They said, “This must be the Messiah, the one God promised to send us. Let’s make Him our King right now.” They wanted Jesus to be their earthly king, to sit on a throne in Jerusalem, and to rescue them from the Roman government, which they hated. But Jesus wanted to rule in their hearts, not over their land. Without the people’s realizing it, Jesus slipped away and went off to be by Himself.

The people came back the next day, and Jesus talked to them for a long time. He said something like this, “You’ve come to Me because I gave you food to eat. But your spirit is much more important because it will live forever. Bread feeds your body, but you need Me, the Bread of Life, to feed your spirit inside you. If you come to Me and believe in Me, you will be satisfied deep down inside, just as you felt good and weren’t hungry after you ate the bread and the fish last night. I did not come into the world to care just for your body but also for your soul and spirit.”

When Jesus finished speaking, many of His followers left him - not the twelve disciples, but many of those who had followed and listened to His teaching. As long as Jesus fed them, the people followed Him; but when he began to tell them about their sin and their need for Him, many stopped following Him.

Just as everyone in that big crowd of people was hungry and needed the food Jesus had provided, so everyone in the world is spiritually hungry and needs the spiritual food that Jesus gives.