

### Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

**6** <sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias, as it is also called). <sup>2</sup> A large crowd followed him, because they had seen his miracles of healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up a hill and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The time for the Passover Festival was near. <sup>5</sup> Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" (<sup>6</sup> He said this to test Philip; actually he already knew what he would do.)

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered, "For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than two hundred silver coins to buy enough bread."

<sup>8</sup> Another one of his disciples, Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, said, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish. But they will certainly not be enough for all these people."

<sup>10</sup> "Make the people sit down," Jesus told them. (There was a lot of grass there.) So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand men. <sup>11</sup> Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they were all full, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces left over; let us not waste a bit." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said, "Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world!" <sup>15</sup> Jesus knew that they were about to come and

seize him in order to make him king by force; so he went off again to the hills by himself.

### Jesus Walks on the Water

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, Jesus' disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and went back across the lake toward Capernaum. Night came on, and Jesus still had not come to them.

<sup>18</sup> By then a strong wind was blowing and stirring up the water. <sup>19</sup> The disciples had rowed about three or four miles when they saw Jesus walking on the water, coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> "Don't be afraid," Jesus told them, "it is I!"

<sup>21</sup> Then they willingly took him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached land at the place they were heading for.

### The People Seek Jesus

<sup>22</sup> Next day the crowd which had stayed on the other side of the lake realized that there had been only one boat there. They knew that Jesus had not gone in it with his disciples, but that they had left without him. <sup>23</sup> Other boats, which were from Tiberias, came to shore near the place where the crowd had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> When the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they got into those boats and went to Capernaum, looking for him.

### Jesus the Bread of Life

<sup>25</sup> When the people found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, "Teacher, when did you get here?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: you are looking for me because you ate the bread and had



## Jesus Feeds a Huge Crowd



John 6:8-11 (For the full story, read John 6:1-15.)

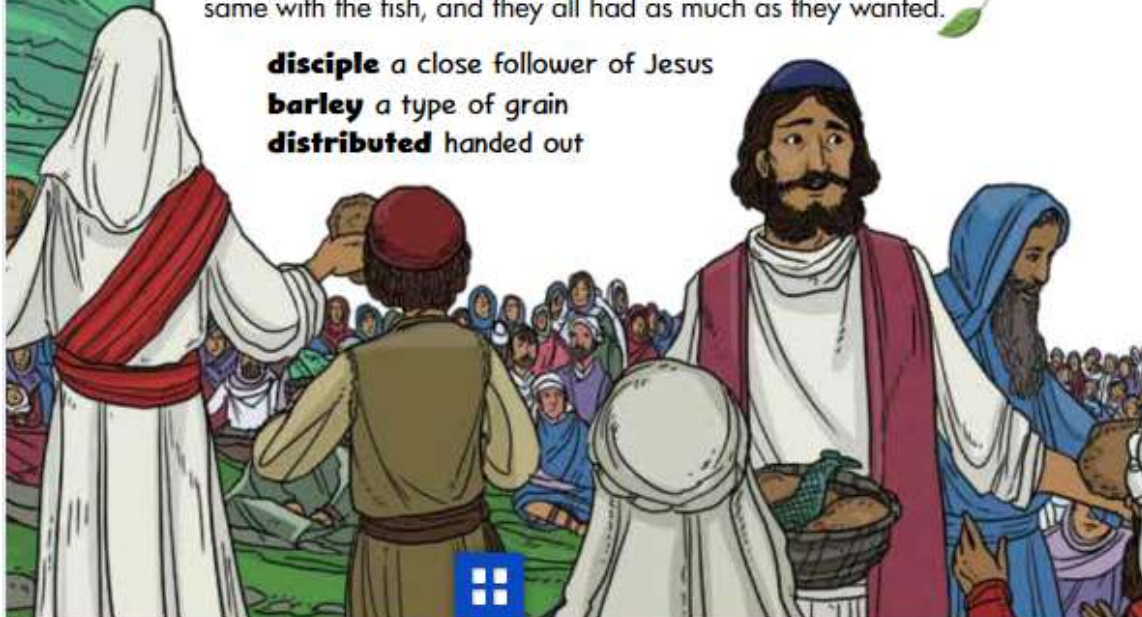
8 Another one of his **disciples**, Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, said, 9 "There is a boy here who has five loaves of **barley** bread and two fish. But they will certainly not be enough for all these people."

10 "Make the people sit down," Jesus told them. (There was a lot of grass there.) So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand men. 11 Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and **distributed** it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted.

**disciple** a close follower of Jesus

**barley** a type of grain

**distributed** handed out



## Understand It!

In this Gospel story, a great crowd had come to hear Jesus speak. A long time passed and the people were getting hungry. Jesus didn't want them to go without food. So he found a way to make sure all the people were fed. A boy had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took this food and thanked God for it. Then, a miracle happened and more bread and fish appeared. Jesus gave it to the people until everyone was full. There were even leftovers!

Jesus could do wonderful things like this because he is God. Today, Jesus feeds people all over the world with the Eucharist at Mass. This is bread that is Jesus himself. The Eucharist nourishes our souls and brings us closer to God.

## Live It!

This prayer asks Jesus to help you grow closer to him. You might want to write it down so you can say it after receiving Holy Communion at Mass.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend,  
and Brother,

May I know you more clearly,

Love you more dearly,

And follow you more nearly,

For ever and ever. Amen.

(Saint Richard of Chichester)

## Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.

