



## **Jesus Feeds 5,000 and Does Much More John 6:1-14**

*And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed [to the disciples, and the disciples] to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would (John 6:11—KJV).*

*Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted (John 6:11—NASB).*

*Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted (John 6:11—NRSV).*

As Jesus taught His disciples, He looked up and saw a large crowd coming up the mountain toward them. Knowing what He intended to do, He tested Philip by asking him where they could buy bread to feed the crowd. Philip replied that six months wages would scarcely be enough money to buy bread for each person to have a little. Philip soon learned that he still knew little about Jesus, and he would soon be astonished at what Jesus could do. After Andrew found a boy with a basket of five barley loaves and two fish, Jesus asked the crowd to sit in groups on the grass. After giving thanks to God, Jesus began to personally distribute the food to each person. He could see and speak to each person individually. He could see and heal any who were sick. He could make certain that each person ate as much as they wanted. As He gave them food,

Jesus kept reaching into the basket and bringing out bread and fish—an unending supply. At the same time, we can imagine hungry people thinking, “Will He have enough for me?” From His basket, Jesus had more than enough for each person in a crowd of about 5,000 to eat as much as they wanted until they were satisfied. Not wanting any of the food to be wasted, Jesus told His disciples to collect the leftover fragments, and they collected twelve baskets full—enough daily bread for that day and the next. As the Son of God, Jesus’ signs amazed those around Him.

### **Thinking Further**

1. Why do you think Jesus took His disciples up a mountain instead of into a town for rest and relaxation?
2. Why did a great crowd follow Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus test Philip? What benefit do Christians derive from Jesus testing them?
4. Why do you think Jesus distributed the food to the seated crowd?
5. Why do you think Jesus told His disciples to gather up the fragments of bread after the people had eaten their fill?

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