

Apply

Right now (Come and see):

In this story, Jesus miraculously fed 5000 people with bread in the wilderness. Verse 14 highlights that this was a powerful sign that caused people to believe that Jesus was sent by God. Later in this same chapter, Jesus interprets this sign even more clearly, saying "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

- This sign pointed to the identity of Jesus and helped people believe. Do you need help believing? If so, let's take a few minutes to pray for you, that God would show up in your life this week and show you signs that point to him.
- What "hunger" are you carrying in your life today? Are there things that you long for God to do that weigh heavily on you? Hunger for deeper friendships, hunger for the world to be different, hunger for God in your life? Let's bring those areas of hunger to God and pray for one another, that God would satisfy your hunger with his presence.
- The purpose of signs is to help people believe. Have you seen enough of Jesus that you're ready to believe and follow him? If so, can we take a minute to pray for you and to celebrate that decision?

This week (Go and do):

Even though the disciples didn't initially understand what Jesus was doing, they got to participate in the miracle and all twelve of them left with a basketful of leftover bread and fish as a reminder of Jesus' miraculous power. How might Jesus be inviting you to join him in miraculous provision this week? Who do you know who is in need of God's provision or power? Could you take a risk by offering to pray for them this week? Write down their name and when you'll offer to pray for them.



John 6:1-14 (NIV)

¹ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Intro

When we kicked off this Following Jesus series, we started with the story of Jesus going from zero to four followers. For his first disciples, following Jesus meant hanging out with him for an afternoon and seeing where he lived. In today's story we see that crowds of thousands of people are now following Jesus everywhere he goes.

Discuss

1. What do you think the average person in this crowd was looking for as they followed Jesus around?
2. How do you think the disciples were feeling about getting some time away with Jesus on the mountainside?
3. How was Jesus' perspective on the crowds different from his disciple's perspective?
4. What do you think Jesus was hoping for when he asked his question to Philip?
5. How might the disciples have been feeling after they saw the miracle?
6. What was significant about having twelve baskets of leftover food?