

# John 6:1-14

## “Jesus: Master Over the Impossible”

**Scripture:** John 6:1-14

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 25:21 *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”*

**Lesson Focus:** This is the account of the feeding of the 5000 which should be familiar to the kids. While we will emphasize that Jesus’s intent in miracles like this is always to prove His identity as the unique Son of God, we will also compare and contrast the reaction of the three characters involved in John’s account.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Jesus Feeding 5000, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Make It Real Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bread/Fish in Basket

**Starter Activity:** Favorite Foods

Something that all kids are interested in is food! To get the lesson started, ask the kids what some of their favorite foods are. Be creative and come up with ways to get them thinking about different kinds of foods. Some ideas:

- 1) Ask them that if they are at an all-you-can eat buffet, what part of the buffet they would go to first?
- 2) Ask around to see what some of the most unusual foods they have tried are. (i.e. sushi, calamari, etc.)
- 3) Ask them what are some of their favorite restaurants and why.
- 4) Ask them if they have ever watched the Great British Baking Show and why they like it.
- 5) Ask them if they have ever helped in the kitchen preparing food for the family and how they have helped.

That last question is a great lead into our lesson as we are going to read about how Jesus miraculously “prepares” food for the people. Jesus will use food, something we all need and love, to teach the people and reveal to the people Who He is. As it says in **John 20:31**, miracles like this were performed by Jesus so that the people would believe in Him as the Son of God.

## Bible Study:

This miracle is the only one recorded in all four gospels besides the resurrection itself. Therefore, we will reference details from the other gospel accounts to sketch a fuller portrait of what actually happened here.

**John 6:1-2:** In chapter 5 we saw Jesus heal the man at the pool and then lambaste the Jewish religious leaders for their hard hearts. An amount of time has passed now and Jesus is gaining in popularity because of the miracles He has performed.

Q: Who are some of the most famous people in the world right now? Think about what it would be like if that person (say Donald Trump) came to your school during recess. Wouldn't you all stop what you are doing and run and see what was going on?

That is what it was like for Jesus and the disciples right now. People were flocking to Jesus to see what He was going to do next!

**John 6:3-4:** Jesus seems to be trying to get away from the busyness by going up to the mountain. Let's look at some of the other gospel accounts to get a fuller picture.

**Read Mark 6:31:** In Mark's account, we see that at this time Jesus instructed His followers to spend some time alone with Him and rest.

Q: How many of you have been to RMC Kids Camp in the mountains? This is a great time to get away to a quiet place and spend time with Jesus! We have some fun, but we also spend quality time together with the Lord in the word and prayer, the best way to recharge. Ask your parents/caregivers if you can come this year! \*

**Read Luke 9:11:** The crowds figured out that Jesus is trying to get away and so they chase after Him. But notice Jesus's reaction! He taught them and healed them! In Matthew's account it says that He had compassion on the people.

Jesus denies Himself this rest and spends time with the people, because He cares about them. Take a second and have a look at your leaders in your class. Your leaders might have had a really hard week at work and could be at home resting right now. Yet they have chosen to be here with you because they care about you and because they love you, just like Jesus did!

**Read Luke 9:12:** Notice the disciples' reaction to the crowds. They seem annoyed, don't they? They even seem a little bossy telling Jesus what to do. \*

**Read Luke 9:13a:** Jesus turns the tables on them! So much for bossing Jesus around! Imagine yourself there. There are thousands of people and Jesus looks to you and says, "feed them". What would you do? Let's return to John's gospel and see how this plays out.

**John 6:5-6:** Jesus asks Philip a question to test him. Remember Philip and the other disciples have seen Jesus work wonders, so Jesus is using this moment to test his faith.

Q: Do you think tests are good or bad? Why?

A: Tests might be hard or difficult but they are usually for a good purpose so that we may prove that we know or understand something important (i.e. driver's license).

**John 6:7:** I think Philip gets an "F" on this test! His answer is kinda like the "I dunno" shrug of the shoulders you kids give to questions you don't want to answer! Philip sees only the impossible, only the problems. \* He doesn't yet fully understand that Jesus is Master over the impossible! (for with God such things are possible!)

**John 6:8-9:** What grade would you give Andrew? I would give him a "B".

Q: What did he do right? A: He brought this boy to Jesus who had some food.

Q: What did he do wrong? A: He still seems to doubt anything can be done here.

While we don't know much about this boy, I want to suggest to you that this boy got the "A+". Though he didn't have much, **he gave what he had to Jesus!** 5 loaves and 2 fish by themselves isn't much, but a little is much when you add Jesus to the equation! Let's see what Jesus does.

**John 6:10:** It said there were 5000 men! Experts believe that there were at least another 5000 women and children.

Q: How many of you have been to a Sky Sox game? That field can sit 8500 people.

Imagine that stadium overflowing with people and Jesus on the field telling everyone to sit down. That is perhaps what this scene looked like right now!

**John 6:11:** Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and fed all of the people? As much as they wanted? \* Wow!

**Teachers:** At this point, give them a snack. We will have fruit snacks available for you, but if you want to bring your own that is fine too. I would suggest acting out the scene (give thanks, pretend to multiply the snacks, have some kids be the disciples who distribute the snacks to each kid, etc.)

Q: What did this actually look like? (Let them "chew" on this a bit)

A: You can't explain this with science or natural laws. This is a miracle, a supernatural work of God! Only God has the creative power to multiply matter like this.

Q: Notice also who did Jesus use to feed the people? The disciples! He was the great master chef, and he has the disciples serve His food. Isn't that what the Christian life is all about? God uses us to help and serve others. We are like waiters in a restaurant serving what the chef prepared in the kitchen!

Q: How many of you often give thanks to God before you eat? Jesus did the same thing!

**John 6:12-13:** Notice it says that not only were all of the people filled and satisfied, but there were leftovers!

Q: How many of you have parents or grandparents who are always getting on your case to finish the food on your plate? Jesus doesn't like wasting food either! EAT YOUR FOOD!

**John 6:14:** Here we get a peek into WHY Jesus performed this miracle. The people were astonished at what Jesus did and started to wonder, "Is this God's promised Prophet and Messiah?"

Jesus is much more than this. As it says in **John 20:31**, Jesus performed miracles like this so that people would put their faith and trust in Him, believing that He was the Son of God.

**Key Point:** Philip and Andrew hadn't quite understood this yet. Philip only saw the impossible (v. 7). Andrew went a step further by bringing the boy and his food to Jesus, but still seemed overwhelmed by the problem (v. 9).

Q: What problems are you facing in life? Do you believe Jesus is powerful enough to help you with your problems? While He might not solve the problems the way you want or expect, the first step is to draw near to Him in faith, trust, and obedience. Pray, pray, pray....asking Jesus to help you His way.

Remember the boy who simply brought what he had to Jesus? While it wasn't much, it was enough for Jesus to use to feed thousands of people. Like that boy, give what you got to Jesus! Let Jesus use what you've got, however small, to be a blessing to others! (i.e. talents, skills, money, etc.)

Jesus uses our TINY resources and multiplies them to accomplish what He wants. And at the end of our lives of faith He says to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (**Matthew 25:21**)

# Bring It Home

**Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Master Over the Impossible”**

**Scripture: John 6:1-14**

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 25:21 *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** We introduced our lesson by talking about some of our favorite foods. What are some of yours? Talk about foods you like and don’t like and why. In **John 6:11**, it says that Jesus gave thanks before feeding the people. Do you see food as something to be thankful for? Discuss.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read Mark 6:31-32.** This instruction from Jesus to set aside time to rest is unique to Mark’s account of this event. What are some ways that you can set aside time to rest with Jesus? Our RMC Kids Kamp is one way and it is coming up May 29-June 1!
- 2) **Read Mark 6:33-34.** Despite their design to get away to rest, the multitudes find Jesus. Notice Jesus’s response to seeing all of the people. Who in your circle of influence can you show compassion to? How can you show them compassion?
- 3) **Read John 6:5-7.** It says that Jesus was testing Philip. While we might not like tests, we know that they are for our good. Why might God want to test us? **Read James 1:2-4.**
- 4) **Read John 6:8-9.** If Jesus were testing Andrew as well, what grade would you give him for how he responded to the problem and why?
- 5) In **John 6:11** it is important to notice that Jesus performs the miracle to multiply the food, but still uses the disciples to serve the food. How does this represent how God still works even today through the church?
- 6) The lad with the five loaves and two fish (**John 6:9**) is perhaps the one that we can learn the most from. While the Bible doesn’t tell us what his motivations were, he simply gave what he had, however little, and Jesus took care of the rest. **Read Matthew 25:20-23.** What are some ways in which we can be more faithful to give to the Lord what He has entrusted to us?