INTRODUCTION & PRAYER
This week, we will examine one of Jesus’ most famous miracles—the feeding of the five thousand. With compassion and foresight, Jesus worked through His disciples to meet the physical needs of thousands of people who were following Him at the time. This miracle amazed the crowd, but Jesus took the opportunity to show the people that their deepest need could not be satisfied by mere bread; they needed the bread of life—Jesus Himself. Jesus miraculously provided food for a crowd and then declared that He is the bread of life who meets the greatest need we all have—salvation. There is no salvation, no satisfaction for our souls, if we do not come to Him in faith. Because God has met our greatest need in salvation through Christ, we seek to meet the needs of others—physical, emotional, and spiritual—through Jesus. Before your study the passage together, pray that God would help you see Jesus as the all-satisfying Savior that He is.

READ THE PASSAGE
Read the passage out loud with your household (if you have kids, let them participate):

- John 6

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE
Study the Passage by discussing these questions:

- What stood out or caught your attention in this passage?
- What does this passage teach you about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- What does this passage teach you about people?

PASSAGE OUTLINE
Here is a helpful outline of the passage, with main points:

- Jesus invites others into His work of meeting the needs of people (John 6:4-10).
- Jesus provides super-abundantly for the needs of people (John 6:11-14).
- Jesus offers Himself as the bread of life who satisfies the greatest need of people (John 6:26-27,32-35).
APPLY THE PASSAGE

Go a little deeper with these questions:

- What are some reasons we fail to notice the needs of others?
- How are people you know trying to find satisfaction apart from Jesus, and how can you point them to Jesus instead?
- What are some points of caution we should take in applying this passage to our own situation?
- What are some ways we might come to Christ for the bread He can provide instead of the bread that He is?
- How have you found Jesus – the bread of life – to be satisfying to your soul?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Read and discuss the big picture of this passage:
When the Israelites were hungry in the wilderness, God provided manna from heaven. Jesus is the greater Moses, the One who not only provides bread from heaven but who also speaks of Himself as the bread who gives life to the world.

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE: SOCIAL CONCERN

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the Spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends, Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12).

PRAYER POINTS

Pray together with those in your home for these and any other prayer requests.

- Thank God for sending Jesus to be the bread of life for the world.
- Pray that God would help you see your constant need for Jesus in everyday life.
- Pray that God would help you point others to the all-satisfying work of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the physical and spiritual needs of your family and friends.
- Pray for those family members and friends that do not yet trust in Jesus as their savior.
- Pray for the leaders and the needs of our church, community, nation and world.
CHRIST CONNECTION FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Read aloud and discuss the big picture of this passage with your kids:
Jesus gave the people food so they would not be hungry. The next day, Jesus said that He is the bread of life. (John 6:35) Only Jesus can give us everything we need. Jesus gives us forgiveness, peace with God, and life forever with Him.

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS

For Videos and Activity Sheets for preschoolers, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.
• Use the password: “hsbcstudents”.

ACTIVITY IDEA

KNEAD DOUGH
• Give your child a ball of play dough and a craft stick/plastic knife. Demonstrate how to knead the dough and form it into the shape of a loaf of bread. Prompt them to use the craft stick to cut the loaf into pieces.
• Here is a simple recipe if you would like to make your own: iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/
• Say: Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with only two fish and five loaves of bread. He did a miracle, something only God can make happen. Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.

CENTER OF THE CROWD
• As a family, on a large sheet of paper, draw enough stick figures to cover the page. In the middle of the sheet, draw a red stick figure. Post the drawing on a wall at your kids’ eye level. Give each child a sticky note. Guide him to draw a person on the note. Tell kids to close their eyes, spin around, and see how close they can get to the red figure in the center without looking. Then, tell them to open their eyes to see where the sticky note landed.
• Say: Crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. Jesus cared about each individual person in that crowd. Jesus fed a crowd so they would not be hungry. The next day, Jesus said that He is the bread of life. Jesus gives us forgiveness, peace with God, and life forever with Him.
CHRIST CONNECTION FOR KIDS

Read aloud and discuss the big picture of this passage with your kids:
By feeding the five thousand, Jesus provided for the physical needs of the crowd. The next day, Jesus called Himself the bread of life. Only Jesus is able to satisfy our souls forever by providing forgiveness, peace with God, and eternal life.

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

For Videos and Activity Sheets for younger and older kids, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.
- Use the password: “hsbcstudents”.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

FOOD CHARADES
- Write various foods on index cards or paper strips and fold the cards and put them in a bowl. One at a time, family members will come up, choose a card, and act out preparing and eating the food. Remind kids especially that they can’t talk while they’re acting out the food, and everyone else has to guess what food they’re making and eating. Here are a few suggested foods:
  - Corn on the cob
  - Popcorn
  - Tacos
  - PB&J Sandwich
  - Ice Cream
  - Soup
  - Cereal
  - Hot Dog
  - Spaghetti

- Say: Show me how you might act out eating bread and fish. [pause for everyone to show you] In the Bible story we will hear today, Jesus and His disciples were with a large crowd of people, and they didn’t have anything to eat. Jesus told the disciples to give the people something to eat. Let’s find out what they did.

MORE THAN ENOUGH
- Have your family sit in a circle and hold up a sheet of brown construction paper (regular or scrap paper will also work just fine for this). Tear off a small amount of the paper and pass the rest of the paper to your left. Everyone in the family will follow suit, tearing off a small bit and passing the rest of the paper. Count how many times the single sheet can go around the circle before it’s all torn.

- Say: It doesn’t matter how small a piece you tear off, eventually, the sheet of paper would be gone. Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish. No matter how much of the bread or fish people ate, there was always more left for the next person. The Bible tells us that at the end of the meal, the disciples collected the leftover scraps, and it was more than they had when they started!

In a way, this is like Jesus. No matter how many people we share Jesus with, He is always more than enough. His power never runs out, so there is no one whom Jesus cannot save. Everyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation will have eternal life with God.
RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
For additional resources for students, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.
  - Use the password: “hsbcstudents”.

FURTHER STUDY FOR FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS
ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE: SOCIAL CONCERN
All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the Spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends, Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12).

DEEPER DISCUSSION
HEAD
  • What is the danger of coming to God for what He can give and not for who He is?
  • How does this account teach us that the ultimate longing of our hearts is found in Christ alone?

HEART
  • What does it look like in the life of a person who finds Jesus more satisfying than the things of this world?
  • Have you experienced a deep soul-satisfaction in Jesus? If not, pray and ask Jesus to help you experience Him in that way?

HANDS
  • What does this account teach us about compassion?
  • What are some recent situations where you have felt compassion? How can you act on those feelings?

Family Challenge on next page
FAMILY CHALLENGE

Create a game plan of how you could meet some physical needs around you this week. This may mean helping a neighbor clean up their yard, helping babysit for a family who couldn’t afford it otherwise, providing dinner for someone recovering from surgery, and so on. Be creative and do it together! Don’t forget to point them to Christ as the One who can provide for both their physical and spiritual needs.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

• What are some physical needs that we see around us that our family could meet this week?
• Why is it important to not only address the physical needs of someone?
• How has our family seen God make much with only a little?
• What things are we tempted to chase after in this life that have no eternal value?