



Lesson Three

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Heart Preparation & Bible Background

When Jesus multiplied the bread and fish and fed the thousands before him, he was showing God's gracious love. Jesus was revealing the power and compassion of God to meet the needs of the people.

But did the crowd see the grace of God when they saw Jesus? Did they see God's provision for *them* in the Lord Jesus? Did they truly comprehend what he taught? (Mark 6:34)

They loved to follow him around and watch him perform wonderful miracles, and they were excited, of course, by this latest show of his power. Now they were convinced he was the promised prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15), the one who had come to deliver them from Roman oppression. Then and there they were prepared to make him their earthly king. (John 6:14–15)

But Jesus would have no part of it. He wanted them to know he was God the Son who had come to save his people from their sins. He wanted them to repent and open their hearts to receive the eternal spiritual food he had to offer. "I am the bread of life," Jesus declared. "He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

How hungry and thirsty are you for the presence and power of Jesus in your life? He is the One who meets all your needs—both everyday provisions and the vital spiritual nourishment of your heart.

In the feeding of the five thousand "the Lord Jesus wanted to show that God in his grace provides for all things; He takes complete care of our needs in order that we might surrender ourselves to His grace in faith. Then we are well provided for, both for this life and for the life to come." (S. G. De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Vol. IV, p. 50)

May you gladly receive his great provision for you, and may you never forget to trust in his grace.



Bible Truth

Jesus cared for the crowd's spiritual and physical hunger by teaching them God's Word and miraculously feeding them all.

Scripture

Mark 6:30–44 (see also Matt. 14:15–21; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–13)



Lesson Focus

Jesus, our loving Savior, provides for all our needs.

Goals for the Children

- Learn that Jesus did miracles to show people he is God.
- Learn that Jesus did miracles so that people would trust him as God, their Savior.
- Name ways that God provides for them.



Memory Minute

Jesus . . . went around doing good. Acts 10:38