

come and see

Week 5: Abundance

John 6:1-15

Summary

In John 6:1-15, Jesus feeds a crowd of 5,000 with five barley loaves and two fish, demonstrating His compassion, divine power, and the abundance that comes through him. This is a powerful story with so much to teach us about who Jesus is, what he's capable of, and how he uses us in accomplishing his ministry.

In the cultural context of first-century Palestine, food was a vital social and communal element, symbolizing sustenance and sharing. This miracle highlights Jesus as the provider and reinforces the belief in His authority over physical needs.

For you

- Read the story twice. The first time through, imagine you are the little boy who offers his lunch for Jesus to use. The second time through, imagine you are one of the disciples. What parts of this story make an impression on you?
- Philip the disciple spoke up with a very practical reply to Jesus' question about buying bread for all these people (a reasoned and reasonable obstacle to feeding the crowd). Andrew, on the other hand, brought forward a boy with a small lunch (maybe an act of hope in the face of logic). Where would you imagine your response would be—closer to Philip's realism or Andrew's hope for a miracle?
- Reflect on your faith life. Are you walking through life with an emerging need that—giving it to Jesus—may have hope of being met?

For your work

- God's compassion (at work here in Jesus) is on you and your colleagues. What provision are you asking God for? Ask your colleagues this question over coffee.
- What challenges is your team facing in your work together that you can bring to God in prayer?
- The realism-hopefulness spectrum is complicated, but how can you and your team exhibit hope that God can provide solutions to the challenges you are all facing.
- Extra question to ask each other: When have you experienced God providing something you needed?

For Students (questions to have in your 'back pocket')

- Where are you interacting with the Gospel of John (if anywhere)?
- How were you impacted by the feeding of the 5000?
- Jesus takes the little boy's small gift and multiplies it. What small gift have you identified you have to offer?
- What do you think this week's passage tells us about people or yourself?

How is this resource working for you? How is God using it to form you? Are there ways we can improve it? How can we pray for you? If you've got questions or thoughts, we invite you to be in touch with us.

Send us an email at campus-ministries@bethel.edu

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