

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

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?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

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). 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.

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. **(John 6:1-13)**

Friends,

This is one of those themes that never goes away in our lives. At 40 and at 15 and at 8, this is something we all think about. What is the significance of my gifts and talents...mine aren't like theirs...they can do this THIS THING...I can barely tie my shoes (I kid, I kid...but this is an actual conversation in the Yoder house)!

Some of us were born with loud talents and gifts that everyone can see. Others of us were born with quieter giftings. But that doesn't make them any less valuable or great. When we stare at a tall tower, a castle, a giant sky scraper; our eyes are drawn to the tallest point. But it's those bottom pillars that allow the tippy top pieces to shine as they do. We are all connected. Our giftings are meant to be a small part of a greater tapestry that makes ONE beautiful picture.

What we offer, God blesses and uses and grows. That's such a gift. And that's exactly what Ms. Jeni focused on in this week's scripture.

This week's activity:

We're going to use 5 dinner plates you have at your house. And your favorite snack.

-Spread the 5 plates out around your table.

-Fix yourself your favorite snack.

-Now carefully and evenly spread your 1 snack out around the 5 plates. How far does it go? Does your snack spread to all the plates? Now imagine doing that 5,000 MORE TIMES!!!! AND...it fed EVERYONE!

-We're going to make ONE more snack. Spend a little extra time and make it super delicious. Make it exactly like you were going to eat it yourself (include all of your favorites).

-Now, we're going to pack it up and take it to a neighbor or a friend and before we do, we're going to pray God's blessings over them. Spend a few minutes and write a quick note of encouragement. Let them know you love them and you're praying for them. Ask God to multiply the blessings in their life!

-Go and ring a doorbell or surprise a friend with this thoughtful gift!

Love you MUCH,
Danielle