

Week 37 Parent Sheet: Jesus Feeds Thousands

John 6:1-14 NIV

Even in the face of the IMPOSSIBLE, Jesus is always able to provide; therefore, let us ever trust in Him as our Savior!

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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Many Events of Jesus' Life in Chronological Order:

- Born (5 BC)
- Named – when 8 days old
- Presented at the Temple – when 40 days old
- Visited by Wise Men – when 2 to 5 months old
- Fled to Egypt – when 2 to 5 months old
- Returned to live in Nazareth – when 1 year old
- His parents thought He was lost – when 12 years old
- Baptized by John – when 30 years old
- Some important events of His three-year ministry:
 - ➔ Tempted in the wilderness
 - ➔ Moved from Nazareth to Capernaum
 - ➔ Called His disciples
 - ➔ Preached the Sermon on the Mount
 - ➔ **Performed many miracles**
 - ➔ Sent out His disciples to heal and teach
 - ➔ Warned about persecution
 - ➔ Told many parables
 - ➔ Heard of the death of John the Baptist
 - ➔ More miracles and teaching
 - ➔ Transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him
 - ➔ More miracles and teaching
 - ➔ Welcomed into Jerusalem – on Palm Sunday
 - ➔ Taught many things – on Holy Tuesday
 - ➔ Instituted the Lord's Supper – on Holy Thursday
 - ➔ Arrested, tried, crucified, and died – on Good Friday
 - ➔ Raised to life – on the third day, Easter Sunday
 - ➔ Ascended into heaven – 40 days after Easter

Background:

1. During Jesus' life and ministry He fulfilled many OT prophecies, taught with authority, and did many mighty miracles; all such things prove that He is the Son of God, the Promised Savior of the world!
2. In today's true story, Jesus will show us that He has an unlimited supply of whatever we need!

Jesus Feeds Thousands:

1. The setting: ¹ ...Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. // Since Jesus had done so many miraculous healings, many were drawn to Him to see and benefit from His miracles!

2. Jesus tests Philip: ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵ 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?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" // With Philip's answer, we are made aware of the GREAT EXPENSE of feeding that large number of people!
3. An unreasonable solution: ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" // Through Andrew the GREAT DIFFICULTY of feeding so many is made known!
4. Jesus' miracle: ¹⁰ 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). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted [not just a bite]. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. // Enough was left over to provide for each disciple!
5. God through Moses had promised to send a great Prophet: ¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." // Regarding that Prophet, God said, "I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name" (Deut. 18:19).

Thoughts:

1. God – *through Jesus* – is our Heavenly Father; let us ever trust Him to provide **all** that we need!
2. Far more important than food, clothing, and shelter is having God's gift of forgiveness. Do you have it? Are you sure? Need help? Let me know.
Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915