



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 21

JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDE

The life and ministry of Christ is sufficient to feed all men.



MONDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 6:1-4

Jesus and the disciples ministered to the people in healing. As they did, word spread among the people, and a very large crowd soon gathered. Luke 9:10 tells us in his account that the disciples had just returned from Jesus sending them out to preach and heal. Matthew 14:14 adds that Jesus healed sick people there as well. As a result of these miracles, a large crowd gathered. These people were more attracted by the miracles than they were to Jesus Himself. Jesus had compassion on them for He saw them as sheep without a shepherd (see Mark 6:34).

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think the people were attracted to the miracles? (They had never seen anything like that before. Blind people received sight, the lame were walking, and the deaf could hear. These people were utterly amazed, just as we would be.)

Is there a greater reason to follow Jesus than the healing of our sicknesses? (Yes, the greater work that Jesus did was the forgiving of our sins. Jesus was glad for their eagerness to follow. But he understood they needed more than miracles. They desperately needed a Savior who would cleanse them of sin and provide for them righteousness in the sight of God.)

PRAY

Ask God to help every person in your family to love the Lord Himself and not just His mighty works.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 6:5-13

Jesus showed the crowd an even greater miracle. After healing their sicknesses, Jesus had the people sit down. He then, amazingly, demonstrated His power as Creator. Jesus offered thanks and then multiplied the fish and loaves. The details of how this was done or what it looked like are not given to us. We can be sure this was not a miracle of satisfied appetites having only eaten a small portion of the original fish. Twelve basketfuls were collected! This miraculous account is found in all four Gospels.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think the Lord wanted to test Philip's faith? (The Lord regularly tests our faith to cause it to grow [See 1 Peter 1:7].)

How can this story help build our faith? (At times we might find ourselves in what seems like impossible situations. Knowing that God is all-powerful and that He loves to help us in our time of need builds faith. In the past He has worked in power to help people. This can encourage us to pray and ask God for help.)

How should God's provision for the 5,000 encourage us as we trust God for the food we need? (This story helps us to see that God can and will provide all of our needs.)

PRAY:

Thank God for caring for us and providing for our needs.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: JOHN 6:25-40

In John 6:35 Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Jesus’ providing food for the 5,000 is a picture of a greater salvation He would bring. He is not just the multiplier of the fish and the loaves. He Himself is the bread of life.

John 6:40 continues, “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is the most encouraging verse in this passage? (There is no wrong answer, but John 6:40 is a promise worth remembering. Consider the implications of this verse with your family.)

What does it mean to “look to the Son”? (The question is, who are we looking to for our salvation? If we look to the Son, we look to Jesus and His atoning sacrifice for our salvation. Some look to themselves and think they can get to heaven by the good works they do.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help us “look to the Son” and trust Jesus for our salvation.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 6:14,15

Jesus was more than a prophet. After multiplying the fishes and loaves, the people wanted to make Jesus their king. They didn't want to worship Him as King. Rather they wanted to selfishly make him their king so he could use His powers to deliver them from the burdensome domination of Rome. God had promised a king - a deliverer. Many of the Jews assumed the king would be an earthly king who would reign on David's earthly throne and throw off the foreign domination of Rome. The people were actually prepared to force Jesus to be their king. But Jesus would not be forced to do anything. He was already King of Kings, ruling over heaven and earth. His mission was far more important than overthrowing the domination of Rome. It was to overthrow the dominion of sin and death for all who would believe.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why would the people want Jesus to be their king? (They could use His miraculous power to overthrow the Roman government.)

Why didn't Jesus let them make Him king? (Jesus didn't come to be crowned king over Jerusalem. He came to conquer sin and death, not the Roman Empire.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for being our King and Lord, conquering death and sin.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 2:9,10

These verses are the very end of Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving for Samuel, the child God gave her. She prophesied a day when God would raise up His king and exalt the horn of His anointed. Her son Samuel would grow up to be a prophet. He anointed David as God's king. But David would only be a partial fulfillment of this prophetic word. One day God would raise up Jesus the eternal King. Jesus revealed that the Father had anointed Him with the Holy Spirit (see Luke 4:18).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did Israel have a king when Hannah prayed her prayer? (No. Saul, Israel's first king, was probably not even born yet.)

Why would Hannah talk about God giving strength to His king if there was no king in Israel? (Hannah's prayer was a prophetic prayer that looked forward to the day when God would give strength to His king.)

PRAY:

Thank God for sending His son Jesus to be our King and Savior.