



A Hungry Crowd

**Mark 6:30-44;
John 6:1-14**

EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 577–579 or the Action Bible New Testament on pages 67–69. Read this true Bible story found in Mark 6:30–44, John 6:1–14.

Here is what the story is about:

When the twelve disciples returned from their mission to share the Good News, Jesus took them to a quiet place. Large crowds followed Jesus, because they wanted to hear Him teach. Soon more than 5,000 people were gathered to listen to Jesus. As evening came, the crowd grew hungry. Jesus instructed His disciples to feed them. A young boy offered his basket of five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blessed the food and told the disciples to distribute it to the crowd. As they served, the disciples noticed that the food never ran out. By the end of the evening, everyone had eaten until they were full. Jesus then instructed the disciples to gather the leftovers, and they collected twelve baskets full of fish and bread.

REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › In this story, how many people did Jesus preach to? At least 5,000 people
- › At the end of the day, the crowd was hungry, but there was not enough food to feed them. What did Jesus do? The disciples found a boy with a basket of five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus thanked God for the boy's food, and the food was multiplied to feed the crowd.
- › When the people finished eating, what did Jesus ask His disciples to do? Jesus asked His disciples to gather the leftover food. The disciples gathered 12 extra baskets of bread and fish.

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DISCUSS

Large crowds followed Jesus so they could hear His teaching.

- › **Why do you think so many people wanted to hear Jesus teach?**
- › **Do you think it is important to learn from Jesus? How can you learn from Him?**

Jesus teaches us the truth about God and how to live our lives in a way that pleases Him. Listening to Jesus helps us understand and follow His guidance, which leads us to a better and fuller life.

- › **How does this story show us that we can trust God to meet our needs?**

We may experience physical hunger in this life. Our physical hunger points to a deeper spiritual hunger. Jesus invites us to be filled with His life, which will never run out. This is why Jesus is called "The Bread of Life".

- › **How does this story show Jesus' power?**

Jesus can provide for us, no matter how big or small our needs are. When we share what we have, no matter how small, it can make a big difference.

BLESS

Read the blessing below or say your own blessing based on John 6:11.

May you find God's love and blessings in your life. May you know that God will always meet your needs and give you more than enough.

ACT

In this story, Jesus recognized the needs of the crowd that he was preaching to. They were hungry and they had no food! But He also understood that it was important for them to hear His teaching. Who are some people in your community who are lacking basic human needs (clothing, food, shelter)? Think of ways that you can help to meet these needs for someone in your community. You may want to ask some friends to help you. Also, think about what else may be needed besides food, clothing or shelter. Do they need to hear about Jesus? Can you spend time with them? Can you pray for them? Can you find a way to encourage them? Pray about this as a family.