In what ways does Jesus' actions in at the Last Supper repeat what He did at feeding the 5,000? Why do you think He looked to Heaven first? How did Jesus include the disciples in feeding the crowd?

Just as Jesus gave the disciples power and authority before sending them out to preach and heal, He passed on the power of God to provide the Bread of Life when He broke the bread and asked His disciples to feed the people with it. First, He told them to Feed the people, then He provided a way to do it.

The Bible is filled with references to bread. In John 6 Jesus says He is the bread that God sent down from Heaven. When Jesus takes the loaves and fish He looks to Heaven, to the Father who had sent Him to be the Bread of Life. After the disciples shared the bread, the people were filled and there was bread to spare. We can expect the same results when Jesus sends us to do His work. We will be given all that we need to accomplish His will as we step out in faith and say, "I don't have much, but I offer what I have and trust you Lord to abundantly provide all that's needed."

WRAP-UP

The feeding of the 5,000 teaches us that God can do extraordinary things with whatever we offer Him, no matter how little we have. Although the disciples saw only the challenge of feeding a large crowd with limited resources, Jesus saw an opportunity to demonstrate God's power and provision. He gave thanks, broke the bread, and multiplied the loaves and fish, involving His disciples in serving the people. This miracle also foreshadowed the Last Supper and reminds us that Jesus is the Bread of Life, who satisfies our deepest spiritual hunger. When God calls us to serve, He will equip us. We simply need to offer what we have, step out in faith, and trust Him to provide.

MEMORY VERSE

13 He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish--unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." – Luke 9:13 NIV

***Challenge** – Asks God to show you how He wants to use you to do things you never dreamed possible, then be ready to take a step of faith and say, "Yes."*

What are you offering
Jesus-y Tables– Week 2

INTRODUCTION

Most of us are familiar with the miracle of Jesus feeding over 5,000 with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. That was a pretty big table Jesus set. But do you know the circumstances leading up to the miracle and who He involved in the miracle? When we look at these and other aspects of the Feeding of the 5,000, we will find lessons for us to apply in our lives as well.

Ice Breaker

Suppose you are hosting Thanksgiving dinner and had planned for 12 family members, but every one of them showed up with an unannounced guest! How would you feed them all?

Key Passage

12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." 13 He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish--unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." 14 (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. 16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. 17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. – Luke 9:12-17 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What The Disciples had done

1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. … 6 So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere. – Luke 9:1-2, 6 NIV

If we look back in the beginning of Luke chapter 9 we see that the disciples had been sent by Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom of God, cast out demons and to heal the sick.

What had prepared them for that ministry? Verse 6 says they proclaimed the Good News and healed the sick everywhere they went. What do you think it was like for them to leave Jesus behind knowing they would be confronted by demons and sickness they had been sent to drive out and to cure?

> *10 When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. – Luke 9:10 NLT*

The Twelve had been sent to do miracles and they went just as Jesus had told them. As they returned in verse 10 Luke refers to them as Apostles or "sent ones". They had experienced the power and authority that Jesus imparted. But they still had more to learn. When God calls on us to do His work, He also equips us for the task. When we say, "Yes" we allow Him to opportunity to demonstrate His power through us.

2. Where is Your Focus?

> *34 Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. – Mark 6:34 NLT*
>
> *11 But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick. – Luke 9:11 NLT*

Although Jesus had withdrawn from the crowds along with the Twelve, the crowd had followed them. Luke notes that Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God and He healed the sick., just as His followers had been doing in their recent journey.

> *12 Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place." 13 But Jesus said, "You feed them." "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" – Luke 9:12-13 NLT*

How do Luke and Mark describe Jesus' response to the intrusion of the crowd?

Jesus' disciples were being very practical in verse 12. What did they find lacking in their location and what did they propose to remedy the situation? How were the people's deeper needs being met already?

The disciples called their location lonely, desolate, and uninhabited (Gr. *erēmos)*. They wanted the crowd to go elsewhere to find a guest room to stay in and provisions to nourish them. But Jesus saw things differently.

> *4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" – Luke 4:4 NIV*
>
> *35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. – John 6:35 NIV*

Based on His command to "feed them", what did Jesus have available that the disciples didn't yet understand?

The disciples looked to themselves to meet the people's needs and they came up short- very short! Their solution was not to take care of the people but to send them elsewhere to meet their needs. But Jesus had a different solution in mind.

3. Looking to the Source

> *16 Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. 17 They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers! – Luke 9:16-17 NLT*
>
> *57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." – John 6:57-58 NIV*
>
> *19 He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." – Luke 22:19 NLT*