

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

2 JULY 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

Hello...

I've been enjoying eating my meals in the garden a bit like having a picnic.

Our story this week is all about a picnic, I hope it doesn't make you feel too hungry!

Love Liz



Today's miracle can be found in Matthew chapter 14 verse 13-21:

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed those who were ill.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'

¹⁶ Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'

¹⁷ 'We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,' they answered.

¹⁸ 'Bring them here to me,' he said. ¹⁹ And he told the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

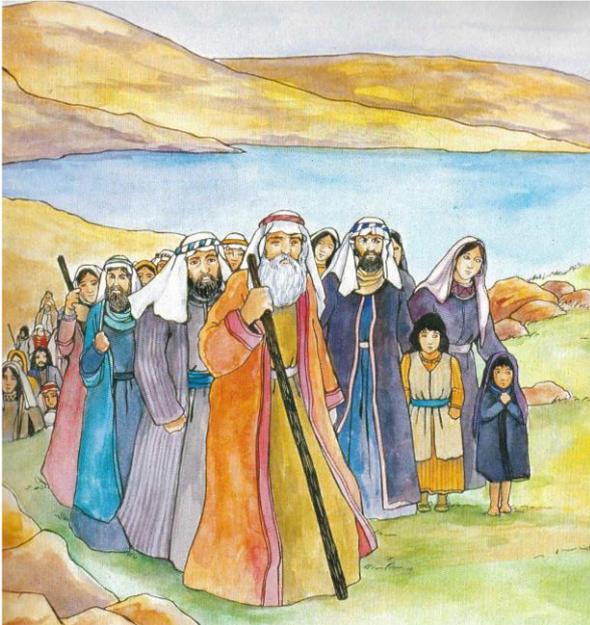
Jesus had been very busy and got into a boat and went to a place where He could spend time alone. He was tired and like us He needed to rest and pray.

But when the people heard that Jesus was nearby, they all walked from their homes in the cities and went to where Jesus was.

Jesus saw all these people travelling towards Him, there were lots and lots of people.

What do you think Jesus did?

- Run away
- Go off in the boat somewhere else
- Feel sorry for them
- Be cross with them and tell them to go away



Jesus was so kind to all the people that He spoke kindly to them. He told them all about God, His Heavenly Father and how wonderful God is. Jesus also healed those who were sick, showing that He is the Son of God.

However, the sun was beginning to go down and the disciples thought that everyone needed to go home. If they set off now they would reach home before it was too dark.

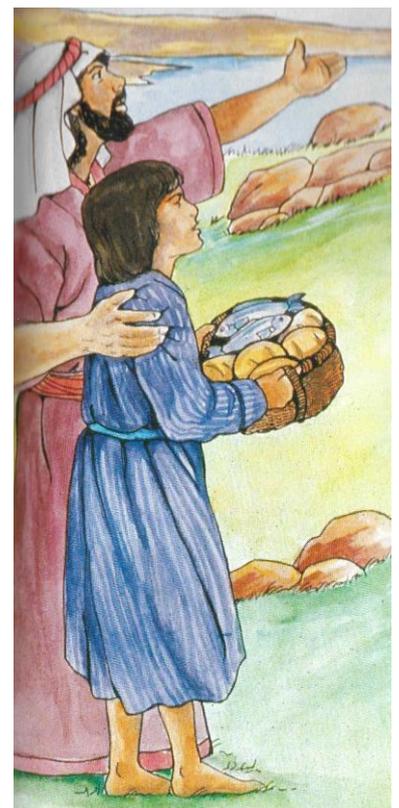
Jesus was so happy being with the people and talking with them but the disciples came to Him and said "This is a lonely place, let's send everyone home as it is getting late. Also, they can all buy the food they need on the way home."

Jesus said "They don't need to leave yet, why don't you give them some food?"

Now, the Bible tells us there were 5,000 men, plus women and children there on the mountainside. That is a lot of food you would need to feed everyone. Philip, one of the disciples thought about how much it would cost to go and buy the food for everyone. He thought it would cost over half a year's wages and no-one had that much money with them.

What did Jesus mean? How could they get all this money? or all this food?

In the crowd there was a little boy, we don't know anything about him, but that he had a picnic with him. His mum must have given him the food before he set off on his long walk. His picnic was 5 small loaves, or rolls and 2 small fish. That was enough for this small lad, but not much extra to share with the others.



When Jesus saw this picnic, He took it and looking up to Heaven, He gave thanks to God for providing the food. All the people sat down on the grass in rows and were quiet.

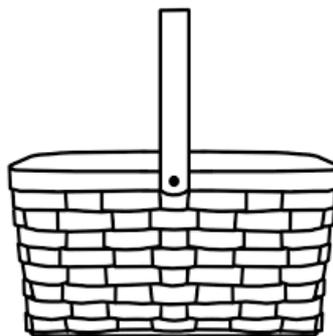
Do you remember to say **thank you** to God for all the food He gives to us each day? Remember to say **thank you** to your mum as well, as she works hard to make your food.



Jesus took the bread and the fish and broke it into pieces. The disciples handed round the food to everyone and there was enough food for everyone. Everyone was full up and satisfied even the disciples.

So, Jesus fed lots of people from one small picnic basket. How did He do that? Because Jesus is the Son of God!

Now, the disciples had one more job. There were some baskets there and Jesus told the disciples to go and pick up all the crumbs. Can you draw the rest of the baskets that they used and all the crumbs inside?



So, Jesus fed everyone and they had lots of crumbs left over, just from one small picnic.

We need to remember that Jesus is amazing, in all He does and He can take even small things and do great miracles from them. Jesus told us that He is the Bread of Life. That means that if we trust Him and say sorry for all our sin, Jesus will forgive us.

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you that you are the Bread of Life that is all I need to be satisfied.

Help me to remember that I am not too small to love you, serve you and do your work. Thank you that I can trust you, depend on you and you will forgive me.

Thank you that You are an amazing God. Amen