**Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 14:15-21; Mark 6:30-44;**

**Luke 9:12-17; John 6:3-14**

**Bible Story Number: 2010330**

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**Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

In this Bible story Jesus miraculously feeds a large crowd with only five small loaves of barley bread and two small fish. This happened immediately after the disciples returned from doing the work Jesus had sent them out to do. This event is recorded in each of the four Gospels.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 14:15-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:3-14**

This is what the Bible says.

The Twelve returned from the work Jesus had sent them out to do. They reported all that they had done and taught. Jesus invited them to go to a remote place and rest. They had not even had time to eat during their work because of the crowds that had gathered.

Jesus and the Twelve traveled by boat, but they were not able to escape the crowds. The people ran ahead and were waiting on them when they came ashore. When Jesus stepped out of the boat, there was already a huge crowd on the shore. So he began to teach them.

Late in the day, the disciples went to Jesus and said that it was late and there was no place in the countryside to get food. They suggested that he dismiss the crowd so they could go to the nearby villages and towns and get something to eat.

Jesus responded by telling his disciples to give the people something to eat. They said it would cost too much to buy bread for so many people. Jesus asked them how many loaves they had, and he told them to go look. They came back and reported that they found a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish.

Jesus instructed his disciples to have all the people sit down in groups of fifty. There were five thousand men.

He took the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, he blessed it and broke the loaves. He kept giving it to his disciples and they served it to the people. He did the same with the fish. Everyone ate and was filled.

The disciples were instructed to pick up what was left over and they did. They collected twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What did the disciples do when they returned from doing what Jesus sent them out to do?
* Why do you think the disciples were tired after they returned?
* Is ministry work tiring?
* What did the disciples suggest to satisfy the crowd’s hunger?
* How did Jesus respond to their suggestion?
* Where did the disciples find the five barley loaves and the two fish?
* How many people were fed?
* How much food was left over from the five barley loaves and the two fish?
* Why do you think Jesus instructed the disciples to collect the bread and fish that was left?
* What does this story teach us about Jesus?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.