**Jesus Feeds Four Thousand**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-10**

**Bible Story Number: 2010370**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story is very similar to the time when Jesus fed five thousand. Again Jesus demonstrated his ability to feed a large crowd with only a small amount of bread and a few small fish. This miracle shows his great power.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-10**

This is what the Bible says.

A large crowd had been following Jesus for days. They were listening to his teaching. Jesus called his disciples (the Twelve) together and told them that he didn’t want to send the crowd away hungry. He had compassion on them, and he was concerned that they might collapse on their way. He even noted that some had traveled a long distance.

The disciples responded by asking where they could get enough bread to feed so many people in such a desolate place.

Jesus asked them how many loaves of bread they had. They responded that they had seven loaves and a few small fish.

Jesus had the crowd sit down. He then took the seven loaves and the fish; he gave thanks, broke them and kept giving them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd. Everyone ate and was filled.

Afterward, the disciples gathered up the leftover pieces. They collected seven large baskets full. There were about four thousand men there, not including the women and children.

After dismissing the crowds, Jesus got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan (also called Dalmanutha).

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**

* Why did Jesus have compassion on the crowd?
* What did the disciples have available for Jesus to use to feed the crowd?
* How many people did Jesus feed with the seven loaves and the few small fish?
* How much was left over after everyone had eaten?
* What differences do you remember between this feeding of the crowd of four thousand and the previous story of the feeding of five thousand? (Size of the crowd - four thousand vs. five thousand; the use of seven loaves and a few small fish vs. five barley loaves and two small fish; the collection of seven large baskets full of leftovers vs. twelve baskets full of leftovers).
* Why do you think this second event of feeding a large crowd is recorded in two of the Gospels and the previous feeding of five thousand is recorded in all four Gospels?
* 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.