GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Five Loaves and Two Fish

John 6:1-15



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jesus cared for hungry people and provided abundantly.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Crowd and a Small Meal

John 6:1-15



A great crowd followed Jesus near the Sea of Galilee. They had seen the signs he did for people who were ill, and they wanted to be near him. Jesus went up the hillside and sat with his disciples. The Jewish festival of Passover was approaching. Looking up, he saw that the crowd was still coming. All these people needed more than a place to gather; they needed food.

Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread for everyone. He was testing Philip, because he already knew what he would do. Philip thought about the cost. Even a very large amount of money would not buy enough for each person to have much. The crowd was far greater than the meal the disciples could easily provide. Looking only at what could be bought, the problem seemed enormous.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, pointed out a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish. Here was real food, but it was a small amount beside the number of people. Andrew wondered what it could do for such a crowd. John does not tell us the boy's name, his words, or how the food was handed over. What he does name carefully is the food Jesus would use.

Jesus told his disciples to have the people sit down. There was plenty of grass, and about five thousand men sat there. John gives that number for the men rather than a complete count of every person present. The people were now seated together. Philip's concern about money and Andrew's report about a small meal had brought the need into view. Jesus was ready to provide for the crowd.

Remember: Give thanks, care for hungry neighbors, and avoid wasting food.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Enough to Eat, with More to Gather

John 6:1-15



Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. Then he distributed the bread to the people who were sitting down, and he did the same with the fish. The meal was no longer limited to what one boy could eat. People received as much as they wanted. The story does not describe the exact moment or method by which the food increased; it tells us that everyone received enough.

After the people had eaten their fill, Jesus gave the disciples another instruction. They were to gather the pieces that remained so that nothing would be wasted. The work was not over when hunger ended. There was food to collect and care to take. The disciples gathered twelve baskets of bread pieces left from those five barley loaves, a clear sign that the provision had been generous.

The people recognized that something extraordinary had happened. They spoke about the prophet who was to come into the world. Then they wanted to take Jesus and make him king by force. Jesus knew what they intended. He withdrew to the mountain by himself. Feeding the people did not mean accepting every plan they made for him or allowing a crowd to decide the purpose of his work.

This account moves from a question about buying bread to a meal with twelve baskets left over. It also moves from the people's need to their mistaken attempt to take control. Jesus met the hunger in front of him while remaining faithful to his own mission. The bread was a sign pointing beyond itself: the disciples were learning who Jesus was through the way he cared for people.

Pause and think: What can you notice about a meal that helps you respond with both gratitude and care?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Notice the Need and the Gift



Philip noticed the cost, and Andrew noticed the small amount of food. Both were looking at something real. When a problem is large, it helps to name what is needed and what is available. You might not be able to solve a whole neighborhood's hunger, but you can tell an adult when someone needs food and help with a shared plan.

Jesus gave thanks before the meal and asked for care afterward. Think about the people whose work brings food to your table: growers, drivers, cooks, and those who buy or share it. Gratitude can include words and actions. Taking a suitable portion, storing leftovers safely with an adult, and avoiding waste are ordinary ways to value a meal.

The crowd wanted to choose Jesus' role for him. That reminds us that receiving a gift does not give us control over the giver. We can be thankful without demanding another gift or insisting that kindness must continue exactly as we want. In this story, the wonderful meal leads us to notice Jesus, not only the bread.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus fed the crowd generously and taught his disciples to value what remained.

What can you notice about a meal that helps you respond with both gratitude and care?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What food did the boy have?

2. Why did Jesus ask them to gather leftovers?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ The disciples gather twelve baskets of leftovers.
- ☐ Jesus gives thanks and feeds the people.
- ☐ A boy's five loaves and two fish are noticed.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw the five loaves, two fish, and baskets of leftovers.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Give thanks, care for hungry neighbors, and avoid wasting food.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: John 6:11-12

A thoughtful conversation

John counts about five thousand men, not exactly five thousand people total. He identifies the boy's food but gives no words spoken by the boy or details of how he handed it over.

Activity answers

1. Five barley loaves and two fish.
2. So that nothing would be wasted.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, thank you for food. Help us share wisely and care for those who are hungry. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on John 6:1-15. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 43_Jn_06_09_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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