

Life of Christ

No Bread?

Matthew 15:28-38; 16:1-12

Younger Verse

I am the bread of life.

John 6:35

Older Verse

I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again.

John 6:35

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus again fed a large crowd with a small amount of food
See that Jesus warned His disciples not to be like the Pharisees
Realize that we need Jesus more than anything else

Welcome Time

Have you ever gone on a trip and forgotten to take something to eat? Jesus' disciples did that. But they had the Creator of bread with them!

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned about amazing things Jesus did, like walking on water and feeding thousands of people with a little food. Then last week, we learned that Jesus talked about having a clean heart. Jesus taught many things about what is in a person's heart. Today, we will talk about another miracle Jesus did AND something He taught His followers.

Jesus and His followers traveled to a different area. Many people heard that Jesus was there. They came by the hundreds to listen to Jesus and learn how God loves them. Jesus healed many people who were sick. Some were blind, and Jesus made them see. Others were crippled, and Jesus made them walk. Some people could not talk, and Jesus gave them a voice.

The people were so amazed at what Jesus was doing that they worshipped God. They stayed there with Jesus three days. Jesus decided to do another miracle by feeding all of the people with only seven loaves of bread and a few fish!

When everyone was finished eating, Jesus' friends picked up the leftover pieces. They put the food in 7 big baskets. Jesus had fed over 4,000 people that day!

Later, the religious leaders again tried to trick Jesus. They wanted Him to show them a sign from heaven. Jesus knew what was in their hearts. He did not need to show them anything to prove who He was. Then He told His disciples to watch out for the yeast of the religious leaders. This meant that He didn't want His disciples to be influenced by the evil in the hearts of the Pharisees.

The disciples had forgotten to bring bread for their meal that day. They thought Jesus was talking about that. But Jesus told them they still needed to have more faith! They had seen Him feed the 5,000 and then the 4,000 people with small amounts of food.

And yet they were still worried about where they would get their bread!

Then Jesus explained to His friends that He was warning them not to follow the evil ways of the Pharisees. These men were only concerned about impressing people. Jesus was concerned about people having clean hearts, like we discussed last week.

The only way to have a clean heart is to believe in Jesus. He died on the cross to make a way for us to be forgiven of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, we can have eternal life. We must ask Jesus to come into our heart and life. Then we give Him control of our life and live for Him. His Holy Spirit helps us to obey Him.

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus do for the large crowd? (healed the sick, fed them)
2. What did the religious leaders ask Jesus after this miracle? (to show them a sign from heaven)
3. Why didn't Jesus show them a sign? (He knew what was in their hearts; He didn't need to prove who He was to them)
4. Jesus warned the disciples about the yeast of the Pharisees. What did He mean? (He didn't want the disciples to follow their evil ways)
5. What did the disciples think Jesus was talking about? (that they didn't have any bread for dinner)

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us not be influenced by evil. Pray that we will choose to follow Jesus, the true Bread of Life.

Life Application

Back in Bible times, bread was the most important part of the meal. So when Jesus said He was the Bread of Life, He meant that He was the most important thing a person needs to live.

In John chapter 6, Jesus told the people that they shouldn't worry so much about what they were going to eat. He said that they should think more about having a relationship with God. Jesus explained that HE was the way to have eternal life.

We only have to ask Jesus into our heart one time to receive eternal life. But to stay close to God, we need to spend time with Him every day. We have to eat food every day to stay strong, and we need to read the Bible and pray each day to stay strong spiritually.

Think about how you spend your time and energy. Do you make time to be with God each day and receive your spiritual food? Jesus wants to be a part of our life. He wants to help us make good choices and live for Him. The more time we spend with Him, the more He can help us.

Planning for Next Lesson
Who Am I?
Matthew 16:13-26

Preschool Lesson For No Bread?

One day, Jesus sat down and talked to many people. He helped them learn more about God. He also told them how much God loved them.

Many people came to listen to Jesus. Some people that came were blind, sick, or even crippled (they could not move an arm or leg). When Jesus saw them, He healed them. The blind could see, the sick were well and the crippled could walk! It was an exciting day.

The people loved to hear all that Jesus was saying. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that they listened to Jesus for 3 days!

But, they forgot something! The people forgot to bring something to eat! They had not eaten in 3 days! That's a very long time.

Jesus knew that God could do a special miracle. He told His helpers that He wanted to help the people. His friends remembered how Jesus had fed many people before. It was an amazing sight. They told Jesus that they had 7 loaves of bread and some fish.

Jesus asked everyone to sit down on the ground. Jesus prayed and thanked God for the fish and bread. He broke it into little pieces and gave it to the people. There were many, many people there. Jesus' friends helped pass out all the food.

Do you know what happened? That little bit of food fed everyone! Everyone ate and ate and ate. When everyone was finished and stuffed, Jesus' helpers picked up 7 big baskets full of leftovers!

When Jesus and the disciples left that area, one of Jesus' friends remembered that he forgot to bring something to eat for the group. Jesus told them not to worry about food. He reminded them that He had taken a little boy's lunch and made plenty of food for a large, large group of people. Surely He could take care of His 12 disciples!

Jesus explained that His friends should always be careful and do what is right. He shared that some people try to tell you wrong things and want you to believe it. Jesus was trying to help them see that they must be careful about whom they trust and believe.

The Bible can help us when we are not sure what to believe. It is truth and can show us what we should do. It gives us help in knowing what is right and wrong and correcting mistakes.

Pray and thank God for giving us His Son, Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Sing this song to remember the lesson. It's to the tune of "Mary had a little lamb."

Jesus fed 4,000 men, 4,000 men, 4,000 men.
Jesus fed 4,000 men on a hillside.

They ate and ate till they were full, they were full, they were full.
They ate and ate till they were full, on a hillside.

Seven baskets of food were left, food were left, food were left
Seven baskets of food were left, on that day.

Hands-on Activities for No Bread?

Jesus' cared for the people and wanted to give them food to eat. We must have compassion and kindness for others. Think of a project that your children can do to show kindness to others. Put Goldfish crackers in Ziploc bags. Write today's Bible verse on small papers and put them in with the crackers or tape to the outside. Have kids think of someone they can give them to. If possible, go with the students to deliver them.

Find a picture or clip art of a loaf of bread. Or if you have kids who are artists, let them draw a loaf of bread on construction paper. Then write the Bible verse on the picture.

Bring pictures of other countries that show the importance of bread and water. For example: Latin Americans with tortillas, Arabs with pita bread, Italians with rustic bread and the French with baguettes, etc. Share with students how Jesus gives life, like bread and water sustain life.

We can be helpers like Jesus' friends were. Find a project at the church or around the property that the kids can do. Make it fun and challenging. It could be things like picking up trash, planting flowers, sweeping the floor, organizing things, etc.