

# JESUS FEEDS 5,000+

*(John 6:1-15)*

## FOCUS

Two candidates are competing for an elected office. They make promises while campaigning, trying to convince people to vote for them. "Choose me, and things will be better." "I'll improve health care, make sure everyone has their needs satisfied, and lower taxes too!" Such promises are expected during political campaigns, but we may be skeptical. Do the candidates mean what they say, or will they forget their promises once they are in office?

1. Do you think most people believe campaign promises? Why or why not?

2. Do you think most people would vote for someone if they truly believed the candidate would fulfill all of his/her promises?

## INFORM

Read John 6:1-5.

1. As the account begins, Jesus is ministering to a great crowd of people. What does the Lord do for this crowd? Why does He do this? See also Matthew 14:14.

Read John 6:6-7.

2. Knowing what He is going to do, Jesus tests Philip, asking how the crowd could be fed. How does Philip respond? What does this say about the size of the crowd?

Read John 6:8-9

3. While Philip sees the impossibility of the situation, Andrew hints at a solution. What does he say? What do you think he was thinking?

Read John 6:10-13.

4. The disciples were unable to solve the problem. What does Jesus do?

5. Look carefully at these verses. How many people ate the food? See also Matthew 14:21. Philip earlier said that eight months' wages would not buy enough food for each person to have a mouthful. How much food did they eat?

6. After all the people finished eating, Jesus directs the disciples to gather the leftovers so that no food was wasted. How much remained?

Read John 6:14-15.

7. Seeing the miracle, the people were amazed. How did they identify Jesus?

8. After experiencing the miracle, what did the people want? How did Jesus respond?

## Connect

1. The disciples tried to come up with solutions for dealing with the hungry crowd. They did not do what they could have done first—go to Jesus for help. How do we sometimes act like the disciples?

2. The people who saw the miracle wanted to make Jesus a king. While this might have seemed like a good idea, what negative consequences would it have had?

3. The people were satisfied with the bread and fishes. Read John 6:47–51. What did Jesus really want to give them and us?

## Vision

Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion on them. He healed them, blessed them, and fed them. He did not limit His ministry to spiritual issues. At the same time, He did not simply help them physically. He taught them and preached the Good News. He helped people in all of their needs.

1. What human needs does God call the church to answer?

2. How can we better help people with their many needs?