



The Bread of Life

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *John 6:1-40* at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from **42min 34sec to 52min 16sec** (9min 30sec).

2. Discuss

Discuss John 6, Feeding the 5000 and choose whether to continue with Jesus Walking on Water, and the Bread of Life with the people who followed Him. Discussions are provided for all three stories.

New Church Concept Signs and Miracles

A 'sign' means verification that the Lord was the Messiah and the Son of God who was to come. The miracles which the Lord did were not signs to them because miracles are signs only to the good. See *Apocalypse Explained* 705.5

A sign moves the understanding and faith, but a wonder the will and its affection, for the will and its affection are what are stirred up, stricken dumb and filled with amazement, while the understanding and its faith are what are persuaded and moved by indications and proofs. *Apocalypse Explained* 706.1

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 15 | Gospel of John

Watch a Video

Watch John 6:1-40, from *The Life of Jesus . English. Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start video at 42min 46sec. Watch until 52min 16sec; 9min 30sec.**

Note: The video segment includes the feeding of the 5000, Jesus walking on water, and Jesus talking to people about bread from heaven. Choose whether to stop the video at 47min 14sec to discuss The Feeding of the 5000, to stop at 49min 19sec to discuss the miracle of Jesus Walking on water, *or* to stop at 52min 16sec after Jesus' discourse on the The Bread of Life. These themes are connected and make a continuous story.

Discuss The Feeding of the 5000

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Jesus did this miracle in Galilee, far from Jerusalem, where he was starting to be persecuted. Why were so many beginning to follow Him? (John 6:2)
2. Where did Jesus do the miracle? (John 6:3) Why are places where things happen in the Word important?
3. Jesus' fourth miracle, feeding 5000 people, was done *through His disciples*. What does this imply about our need to participate in the Lord's work?
4. Is it possible for the Lord to help people without human involvement?
5. Feeding 5000 people is a miracle of abundance. What other miracle of abundance did Jesus do? (See John 2) (*Hint:* Jesus' first miracle.)
6. Compare the miracle of Jesus turning 182 or so gallons of water into wine (John 2:1-10) with Jesus providing an abundance of bread (John 6:1-14). Look for similarities and differences.
7. The miracle of multiplying five loaves to feed 5000 people symbolizes Jesus' abundant Divine Love. People received "as much as they wanted" (John 6:11). How do we receive this abundance in our lives? How much of Jesus' love do you want? How can you receive it?
8. In what ways did the miracle change the way the crowd thought about Jesus?
9. Why might Jesus not have been ready to be recognized as King? (Think about what happened after he *was* recognized, as King as He triumphantly entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.)

Discuss Walking on Water*Choose questions for discussion.*

1. Did this miracle take place in a high or low place? (John 6:16)
2. Almost immediately after participating in the miracle of feeding 5000 the disciples were plunged into a powerful storm at night. We sometimes go from feeling fantastic, to being full of doubts—about ourselves, our friends, and our faith—quickly. In what ways does experiencing ups and downs help us grow spiritually? Can we grow spiritually without experiencing ups and downs?
3. In what situations have you doubted that the Lord could or would help you?
4. Does experiencing hard times impact our ability to believe in God?
5. When was Jesus physically (and spiritually) closest to His disciples in this story? When is He closest to us?
6. Have you ever felt afraid of the Lord? At what times might this happen?
7. The Lord identified Himself by saying “It is I.” “It is I” is the same as “I Am”—the name the Lord used to identify Himself to Moses. Powerful miracles happened each time the Lord used this name. What powerful miracle happened this time? (John 6:21)
8. What does this miracle tell us about how quickly the Lord is right with us when we willingly receive Him into our lives?

Discuss The Bread of Life*Choose questions for discussion.*

1. How did people realize that Jesus had done a miracle? (John 6:22-24) Have you ever realized that the Lord has done something amazing in your life? How might you notice a change in a friend’s life?
2. Jesus seemed harsh with people who had gone a great distance to find Him. (John 6:26-27) Why was this?
3. Does the Word sometimes seem harsh? If the Lord can never be harsh, why does it sometimes appear that He is?
4. Jesus’ message to the people is similar his message to the woman at the well in Samaria. What does this say about the importance of this message for the people of His time? (John 6:29)
5. What does this message say to us today?

Eating Flesh and Drinking Blood

Jewish faith and culture teaches strict observance of the Laws of Moses. Jesus’ words, to eat His flesh and drink His blood, would not only have been against Jewish law; they would have been shocking and offensive. The consequences of eating “flesh with its life” (Genesis 9:4) were very serious. People were to “be cut off” from their people (Leviticus 17:11-14), and utterly destroyed (Ezekiel 34:29). These words were delivered in the synagogue—where the Law was read, and were to lead Jesus into trouble in the future. Jesus’ real message was to raise people’s consciousness above the letter to the spirit of the law, to a new level of understanding and spiritual life.

Angels are not constantly in the same state as to love, and so are not in the same state as to wisdom, for all the wisdom they have is from their love and in proportion to it. Sometimes they are in a state of intense love, sometimes in a state of love that is not intense. It decreases gradually from its most to its least intense. When they are in the highest level of love, they are in the light and warmth of their lives, or in their greatest clarity and delight. Conversely, when they are in the lowest level they are in shadow and coolness, or in what is dim and unpleasant. From this latter state they return to the first, and so on. The phases follow each other with constant variety. These states follow each other like morning, noon, evening, and night in our world, varying throughout the year. Not only that, they correspond—morning to the state of their love in clarity, noon to the state of their wisdom in clarity, evening to the state of their wisdom in dimness, and night to a state of no love or wisdom. It should be known, though, that there is no correspondence of night with the states of life of people in heaven, but rather a correspondence of the half-light that comes before dawn. The correspondence of night is with people who are in hell. Because of this correspondence, morning means the first and highest level of love, noon wisdom in its light, evening wisdom in its shade, and the half-light the dimness that comes just before the morning. Night, though, means the loss of love and wisdom. See *Heaven and Hell* 155