

# JESUS FEEDS THE 5000

## GAME: CHUBBY BUNNY

### NEED

- Bag of Marshmallows (or something small, spongy and edible)
- Willing contestants

### RULES

Have the contestant's line up, and present each one with a marshmallow – they then place the marshmallow in their mouth, **WITHOUT CHEWING OR SWALLOWING**, and have to say the words 'Chubby Bunny' so the audience can clearly hear them.

You then repeat with a second marshmallow, then a third, building the number of marshmallows inside the contestants mouth until they are no longer able to speak the words 'Chubby Bunny' in an audible and clear fashion.

Last contestant left standing is the winner!

## MATTHEW 14:6-21

6 On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much 7 that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8 Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." 9 The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted 10 and had John beheaded in the prison. 11 His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. 12 John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

16 Jesus replied, "**They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.**"

17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## CONTEXT

### **Why is it important to read v6-12?**

- Provide context, background to Jesus' miracles

### **Who was John the Baptist?**

- John was Jesus' Cousin.
- The Messenger that came before Christ, the Voice (Ref: Isaiah, Malachi, and Exodus)

### **BIBLE KNOWLEDGE: Why was John in Prison?**

- John had publically opposed and ridiculed the marriage of Herod and his Wife (Broke Jewish Law – was immoral)
- Herod's Wife was previously married to Herod's brother, Philip

### **BIBLE KNOWLEDGE: Why not kill John?**

- John was considered a prophet, and many feared God's wrath if they mishandled him to much

### **What happens at the beginning of our text (RECAP)**

- Daughter of Herod Dances, and please him and the guests
- He promises her anything up to half the kingdom
- She consults her mother, who tells her to demand Johns head on a platter
- Herod fulfils this request
- John's Disciples find his body and bury it

### **Why is it important to read v6-12**

- it creates context, regarding how Jesus felt during the next part of the text
- Reminds us that Jesus is very much human, and has to combat emotion, hurt and pain
- makes Jesus' miracle even more outstanding

## THEN

### **What does Jesus do upon hearing the news about John's death?**

- Withdraws to a private place
- does so by boat

### **Why does Jesus do this?**

- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- Perhaps to pray, as he often does in solitary places (seek God's will)
- Boat perhaps discourages people from following, creates a natural divide

### **What has happened by the time Jesus has reached the other side of the water?**

- The crowds had heard, and followed him

### **What is Jesus' response to the crowds?**

- 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
- Compassion
- Healed their sick

### **How long does Jesus heal the sick and work with the crowd?**

- 15 as evening approached
- Perhaps implies Jesus has been there all day, at least for a decent length of time

### **The disciples then approach Jesus and ask for the people to be sent home. Why?**

- Unsafe, outside of town and do not want to be responsible for them
- hospitality rules: perhaps they are offering solutions to questions they feel will be asked very shortly
- Focused on their own needs: Hungry too – no food and feel they have helped the people 'enough'

**Jesus then tells the disciples: 16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."**

### **Why would Jesus make this statement?**

- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- his compassion vs their selfishness, trying to help them see the mission rather than their own needs
- Test of Faith: do they believe God can provide as he promises

### **How do the disciples respond and Why?**

- 17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.
- Open discussion
- Concerned with worldly limitations, comfort and excuses

### **Does Jesus rebuke or harshly correct this statement and Why?**

- No, 18 "Bring them here to me," he said.
- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- Perhaps instead, has the same compassion on their helplessness

**Jesus then performs a miracle – creating enough bread for all to be filled and have leftovers**

### **NOTE: Miracle is performed after prayer**

- 19 taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

NOW

### **Why is this miracle recorded in the bible?**

- Open Discussion
- Show Jesus' absolute love and compassion, personal crisis is put to one side in the face of lost people (Mission)
- No excuses not to expect God to work in any circumstances, no matter the odds
- God still shows compassion on us, even though as disciples we should know better

### **Have we had a moments of crisis in our lives?**

- Yes, many

### **How do we often respond?**

- Open discussion
- Like Jesus: need some time to mourn and be away (it is ok, to mourn)
- Respond in prayer: see God's will is bigger than our issues (Jesus' response to the crowd)
- Like the disciples: make excuses not to give, blame circumstances

**Sometimes issues are actually big, but more often they are like the disciples issues, small...**

- man made issues: Stress, anxiety and insecurity about situations in our lives

**What is Jesus' mentality with both sets of issues?**

- Sees the crowd and has compassion
- sees the disciples and has compassion

**Does Jesus respond to all our issues?**

- Yes

**What should be our focus, knowing how Jesus responds?**

- Open discussion
- Replicate Jesus' example: have compassion on others, faith that God's will is right
- Not make excuses, but rather expect God to work powerfully, regardless of circumstance

**Jesus creates an abundance of Food, Why?**

- Open discussion
- to show he will give us more than we imagine or expect

## APPLICATION

**How does this change our lives this week?**

- Open Discussion
- Less excuses, more compassion for the lost
- Finding ways to serve others, both disciples and neighbours, friends and those studying the bible

**Both ends of this passage in both issues – God works through Jesus prayer (Private and Public)**

**What can we do this week to imitate this?**

- Prayer privately to align our will with God, to understand his plan and power
- Pray publically for the mission and for God to work actively in our church to save those around us

**This passage tells us God loves us, reminds us he had compassion on us**

- Jesus put himself second to save you!
- time to have that heart with those around you as we imitate his example more and more

**UPDATE: how is our challenge going?**

- make a list of 5 people, pray for them and then invite them to church or to study the bible