

HUNGRY? (FEEDING THE 5,000)

Luke 9:10–17

John 6:35

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” **John 6:35**

Does your teenager understand the difference between wants and needs? If they are like most teens (and adults), many “wants” are seen as a “need.” Does your teen “need” a new cell phone, or the latest video game, or a fashion statement gracing the windows of the local mall? Your teenager may need to examine how Jesus has unlimited resources and provisions—but not as a grocery list of “I wants.”

Read Luke 9:10–17. Jesus miraculously fed 5,000—and that was just the men! Jesus’ resources—five loaves of bread and two fish—somehow provided for the crowd and even created 12 baskets of leftovers. There are really two aspects of this miracle: Jesus’ supernatural power, and His compassion for the people.

Jesus demonstrated through His miracles that He is undeniably God incarnate. His miracles were first and foremost about bringing glory to God. But so many of His miracles had a personal slant: Jesus was utterly concerned with meeting other people’s needs. He showed His power and compassion simultaneously.

Jesus is still the all powerful meeter of our needs. But Jesus is not a magic genie or a safety net. He provides for our needs, but not always for our wants. Help your teenager begin to see the difference and to begin to completely trust God for all of their needs.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, the family gathers a stack of advertisements from a Sunday newspaper. Then, each family member tears out four or five items they wish they could have. A family member asks the question: **Do you think it’s OK to want these items? What would keep you from having it?**

Next, the family discusses: **Do you think Jesus takes care of our needs?** One family member shares a personal example of how the Lord has provided for their family. (An example might be financial or it might be relational.) Finally, the family gathers the newspaper ads and discusses the difference between God supplying our needs and having selfish desires for material things.

Explore . . .

A family member reads Luke 9:10–17. Then, the family discusses: **Do you think this miracle was for the people who were fed or for the disciples? What difference do you think it made for both groups? Say: Jesus’ miracle served two purposes: to demonstrate His incredible power and to provide for the people’s needs. Jesus still works like this today.**

Transform . . .

Family members think about this question: **What do you need Jesus to provide for you today?** Each family member makes a list of areas where he or she needs Jesus’ provision. Post the list where everyone can see it for a week. Pray for answers to your family’s needs.

Pray together that God will make it clear what are our needs and what are our wants. Ask Him to provide for your family’s needs