Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of August 2, 2020
“Give Ye Them to Eat”
Group or Individual Study guide

OPENING TO GOD [2 Minutes]
Greet everyone, and begin with 1 minute of silence to allow the group to open themselves to
the Holy Spirit.

HOOK: Engaging the Topic [15 Minutes]
*Feel free to “pass” if you would rather not answer a question.
*Please be respectful of time and give everyone a chance to share.

1. Do you believe in miracles?
2. What constitutes a miracle?
3. When was the first/last time you experienced a miracle?

BOOK: Engaging the Word [20 Minutes]
Read Matthew 14:13-21

1. What do you think about the Feeding of the Multitudes story/ies?
2. What is the true miracle that YOU get out of the story?
The Synoptic Gospels each have a “feeding of the multitudes” story (Matthew has it twice). Let’s take a closer look:

Here is what we have seen in Matthew, Mark, and Luke:

1) Mark’s account was written first, and it is the longest account, giving more details than the other accounts.

2) Apart from very minor differences, ALL THREE ACCOUNTS ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT! Matthew and Luke felt the need to include this event, but felt that they did not really have anything to add to what Mark had already recorded, except that Matthew felt it important to spell out that the number of 5000 referred to ONLY MEN, besides women and children, in addition to all three of them clearly stating “5000 men”.

3) Specifically, all three of these accounts are agreed that ...
   - A) THE APOSTLES INITIATED this conversation.
   - B) JESUS CHRIST ONLY RESPONDED to a thought they had initiated.
   - C) All three are silent as to WHO INITIATED THE GATHERING INTO BASKETS.
   - D) None of them give A REASON FOR WHY THE FRAGMENTS WERE GATHERED.

4) Their lack of details about the "12 baskets" shows that they did not perceive any specific significance in those "12 baskets".

5) If these three accounts were the only records of this miracle, then the whole thing would be nothing more than a very interesting miracle, but without any specific significance. It is simply recorded in its chronologically correct place, without any connections to what went before or after.

But that all changes when we examine John’s account of this incident.

In the whole section preceding this account John provides the setting of PEOPLE NOT REALLY BELIEVING CHRIST’S WORDS. Notice the last three verses before this account:

Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, HOW SHALL YE BELIEVE MY WORDS? (John 5:45-47 AV)

The next two verses read:

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. (John 6:1-2 AV)

Notice that here we have nothing about the 12 apostles having returned from their training mission, and nothing about John the Baptist having just been killed, nothing about them needing to rest for a while. Instead, we have the scene set with people not really believing the things Jesus Christ was teaching.

Had John forgotten about all of them having gone out on that training mission, and about John the Baptist being killed at that time? Of course not. But John did not mention those things because they
really had no bearing on what would follow, and they would only distract attention away from what was really important.

Let’s continue. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. (John 6:3 AV)

"The mountain" was really a hill higher than the level of the Sea of Galilee, which is 682 feet below sea level, as already previously mentioned. This "mountain" may still have been "below sea level"? Anyway, we now have the setting for the feeding of the 5000.

Let’s continue with the next verse: AND THE PASSOVER, A FEAST OF THE JEWS, WAS NIGH. (John 6:4). This story is the precursor to the Last Supper!

https://www.franknelte.net/article.php?article_id=167

LOOK: What are we called to do? [15 Minutes]

1. How do you see the world today? Miracle-less? Full of surprises?

2. Have you ever witnessed God provide in a supernatural or exceeding expectations way?

3. How do you think God takes care of you (in both your best and worst times)?

4. When we seek God’s presence, what do we seek? What are YOU looking for?

“TOOK”:[10 Minutes]

1. Are you being fed spiritually, physically, and emotionally? If not, seek ways that you can be fed.

2. How do we take a part in helping feed others and aiding in God’s miracles coming true? How do you feed others?

3. Seek God’s miracles in every day things! Come back next week and share the Godly miracle that you have experienced!

Go In Peace [5 Minutes]

Invite someone to close in prayer, asking God to be with the people in such a time as this.