**1. Motivate**

Imagine that one of the couples in our Bible Study class just had their home destroyed by a tornado. It was the home they had lived in for 40 years.

Why might they be doubting God in this situation?

* why did God do this, allow this to happen to them
* how are they going to start over at this point in their lives
* they really didn't need this!

What kind of needs do they have?

* a place to live (at least until a house is rebuilt on their property)
* finances to cover some of the things insurance does not
* clothes, household items
* emotional support

What could you say to these people when you see them?

* we're praying for you
* how can we help you

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/mh6hxv4c> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/59bc6zmb>

* come live with us for a while
* how are you doing

**2. Transition**

All of us have faced needs during times of crisis where we might have doubted God's provision for us

Today 🢥 We want to study how we can trust Jesus to provide for our needs

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus Sees the Need

Listen for the response to a need.

John 6:1-5 (NIV) Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near. 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Why were the crowds attracted to Jesus?

* they had seen miraculous signs
* there had been healings
* Jesus had demonstrated supernatural power
* could be same response today

Note Jesus’ response to coming crowd.

* He saw them gathering
* He asked Philip, “where can we buy bread for these hungry people?”

Why is it significant that Jesus noticed and cared about the physical needs of the crowd?

* could have seen them as a bother
* could have thought to avoid them
* instead realized a real need
* began to deal with an immediate problem

What does Jesus’ attitude towards all those people suggest to us?

* people have needs
* it’s easy to think “I’ve got enough problems of my own. I can’t take on their problems too.”
* we need to allow God to work through us to display His compassion,
* submit to Him to display the Fruit of the Spirit –kindness, goodness, gentleness

What might be a typical reaction to situations that seem to present no readily available solution?

* give up
* like in football … drop back 5 yards and punt
* escape the situation
* run and hide
* throw up your hands and let it be

Why do you think Jesus asked this question of Philip?

* the passage says it was to test him, to teach him a lesson
* to make him think about how Jesus might provide in a special way
* to cause him to look at people and see their needs

3.2 Jesus Meets the Need

Listen for seemingly meager supply.

John 6:6-11 (NIV) He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

What kinds of thoughts or response would you have had if you had been there and Jesus asked you, "How can we supply these people's needs?

* where could they go?
* even if there was a market nearby, they would not have sufficient supply
* the logistics of the whole thing is mind boggling
* they should have thought of the problem before they came out here
* it's not our problem – even if it is, we don't have the resources

What kinds of resources are seemingly insufficient in our class to meet needs of people in our class, our church, our community?

* finances
* personnel
* time our” loaves and fishes”
* energy
* skills

What’s wrong with the response, “here’s a little something, *but it won’t make much difference*”?

* it’s a “throw away” answer
* show’s Andrew’s lack of faith in what Jesus could provide
* he was still looking at the problem
* had no adequate solution

How can we place our meager “loaves and fishes” (resources) in Jesus’ hands?

* tell Jesus about the need
* tell Him of your insufficiency
* tell Him you are trusting Him to multiply the resources
* thank Him ahead of time for providing the needs … note that this is what Jesus did!

What obstacles hinder us from trusting Jesus to provide for us in today’s world?

* focus on the problem, not on Jesus
* if we don’t spend time with God, we are not as likely to think of Him in context of the solution
* not used to trusting God – it is an attitude that must be “practiced” and often exercised
* we have a rational mindset – thinking logistics apart from the supernatural

How might Jesus multiply these things?

* bless us financially so we can give more
* the Holy Spirit can prompt new people to be involved
* God might help us finish our tasks quicker than normal
* God will give added strength, energy

3.3 Jesus Sets His Own Agenda

Listen for people’s reaction to the miracle.

John 6:12-15 (NIV) When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. 14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

What did the people desire to do?

* saw Him as a source of free food
* if He could do this, maybe He could lead a revolution against Roman domination
* let’s make him King

Their thinking was flawed.

* It was not the start of a political or military revolution.
* This was not His mission.
* The miracles were signs of His divinity.

How can we know if we're focused more on what Jesus can do for us than on who He is?

* consider our prayer life – so often *primarily* physical needs
* do we also include a balance of praise, thanksgiving, and seeking His will
* our worship music (whether traditional or contemporary) is enjoyed just as music … we don’t think about the meaning of the lyrics
* consider how we measure spiritual growth … excited about spiritual gifts and accomplishments … or a desire to becoming more Christ-like in character, humility, and love
* we spend not much time reading and meditating on the meaning of God’s Word

What small gifts have you seen multiplied when you gave them to Jesus?

* God uses a small gift to put some building or outreach campaign over the top
* The few minutes you were able to give to a project happened to be when someone special needed your help
* a little rascal of a kid you taught in SS class, ends up being involved in special ministry
* a simple word of encouragement you gave (you thought awkwardly) turns out to be just what someone else needed
* your prayers on a faithful basis supported a missionary or other Christian worker
* your participation in a simple outreach (write notes to people, bake a casserole, call someone who is homebound) meant more to the recipient that you will ever know

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Consider showing the video about how God provided a camp for Christian ministries in Hong Kong. Find it at <https://tinyurl.com/y8gtbq67>

Application

Reflect.

* Write out a prayer of confession to the Lord.
* Admit the times that you have focused only on your desires.
* Remember how your greatest need was provided in Christ and His provision.

Share.

* Find a way this week to live like the young boy from this passage
* Share with someone what God has blessed you with, big or small.
* Remember, God can take our little and make much of it!

Seek.

* Spend time in prayer regarding ways to show compassion as Jesus did, not as a burden but as a blessing.
* Prayerfully seek out someone you can share the gospel with this week.

Double Puzzle

The list on the left are scrambled words from John 6:1-15 (NIV). Get them in the correct order.

Then use the numbers to put those letters in the quote below. When you solve the puzzle, share it with one of your Bible study leaders. Help is found at <https://tinyurl.com/59bc6zmb>