

7

Unlimited

Key References: Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-15; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 39, pp. 364-371; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 41-45; *Our Beliefs* nos. 21, 11, 4



powertext

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2).



We serve a God
who supplies
all our needs.

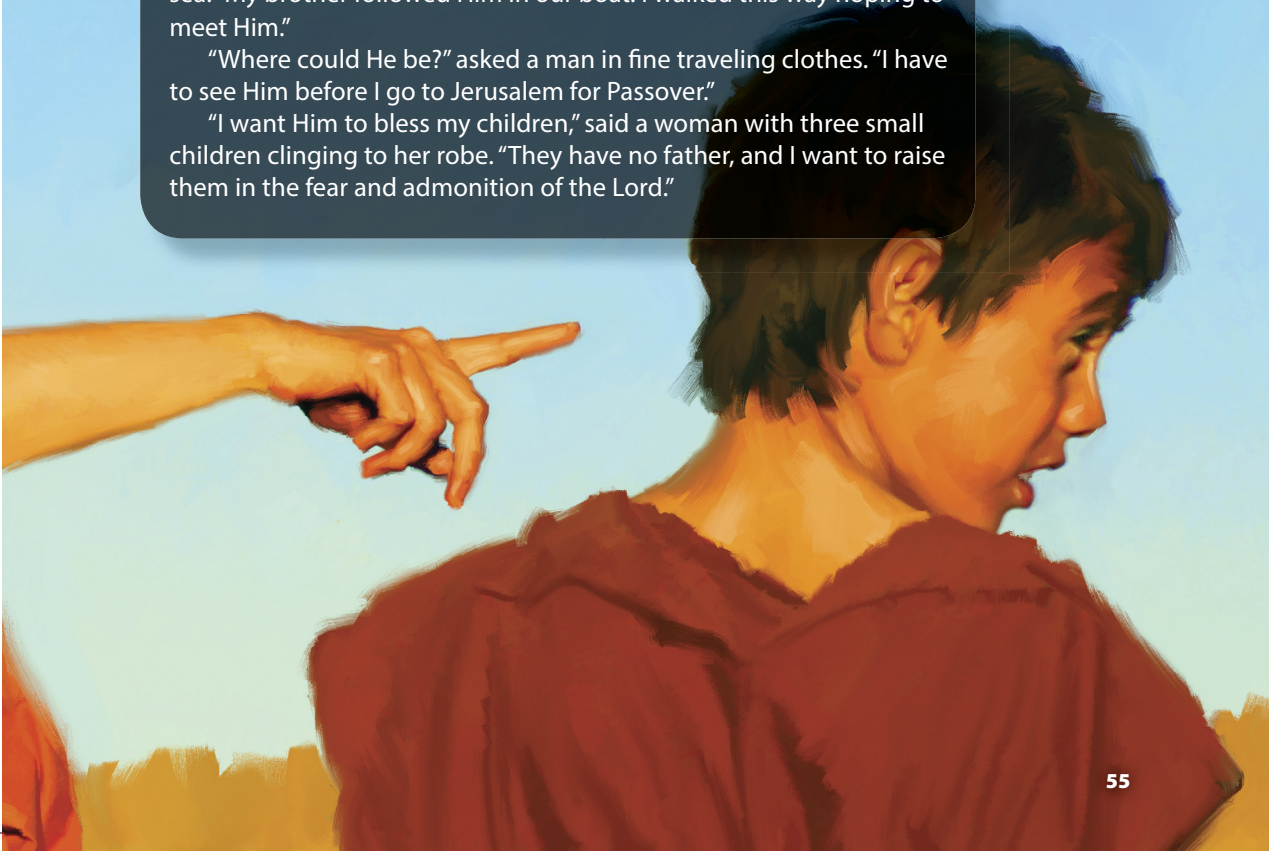
Have you ever been so caught up in something that you forgot all about the time? You were so engrossed that you forgot to eat anything, and suddenly you realized how hungry you were. That is just what happened to a crowd of people one day as they were listening to Jesus. Imagine being part of that crowd.

I knew I should have headed for home right away. But it was a beautiful spring day, and instead I followed the crowd to the shore, listening to their conversations.

"We saw Him a little while ago," said a man who smelled like the sea. "My brother followed Him in our boat. I walked this way hoping to meet Him."

"Where could He be?" asked a man in fine traveling clothes. "I have to see Him before I go to Jerusalem for Passover."

"I want Him to bless my children," said a woman with three small children clinging to her robe. "They have no father, and I want to raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord."



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Sunday

READ Read Mark 6:30 and this week's story, "Unlimited."

REVIEW Review the power text.

SHARE Share a sandwich and tell someone how Jesus fed 5,000 people with just a little bread and fish.

PRAY Thank God for His gifts.

Monday

READ Read Mark 6:31.

IMAGINE Imagine you are a journalist. What would you ask the boy who gave Jesus his food?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write why you think Jesus called His disciples apart to a quiet place? When do you need quiet times?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for caring for everyone.

Tuesday

READ Read Mark 6:32-36.

THINK Jesus was planning to have some quiet time with His disciples. How do you think they felt when they saw that the people had followed them?

RESPOND How was Jesus' response different from that of the disciples'? How would you have responded?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you love people the way He loves you.

"Jesus, Son of man, where are You?" the fisherman shouted.


"Do you think He can hear you?" the traveler laughed.

"It can't hurt," the fisherman muttered.

Suddenly one of the children said, "Mama, look."

A hush fell over the crowd, and all eyes looked up. Jesus was descending the hillside. He stood and began to speak. He didn't seem impatient with the people.

I don't know how long we stood there listening to Him. He gave us so much hope—unlike the priests and rulers. Even the little children didn't fuss. Suddenly I noticed that the sun was sinking in the west. My stomach started to growl. I heard the disciples telling Jesus that we



needed to leave so we could eat. Jesus said the strangest thing to them, “You give them something to eat.”

The one called Philip looked at Him in disbelief and asked, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?” (Mark 6:37).

I wondered that too. The nearest village was miles away, and there were far more people here than in most villages!

“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Go and see” (verse 38).

His followers started to fan out and look. I looked down. I had been so busy listening to Jesus, I had forgotten about my net bag with bread and fish! At that same moment the follower who was called Andrew looked at it too.

“That boy over there seems to have something,” he said.

Andrew and I stepped toward each other. “It’s not very much,” I said apologetically as I gave it to him.

“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Andrew asked, incredulous.

“Have the people sit down,” said Jesus (see John 6:9, 10).

The other disciples were returning empty-handed. Phillip, Peter, and Andrew asked the people to sit down in groups of 50.

People sat down with great sighs of relief. When everyone was seated, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples.

7

Wednesday

READ Read Mark 6:37-44.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about some impossible situations in your life.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you see the impossible situations in your life through His eyes.

Thursday

READ Read John 6:35 and Psalm 103:3.

THINK In these verses, what has Jesus promised to supply?

SHARE Plan to share with someone today what Jesus has done in your life.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to use you to show His love to others.

Friday

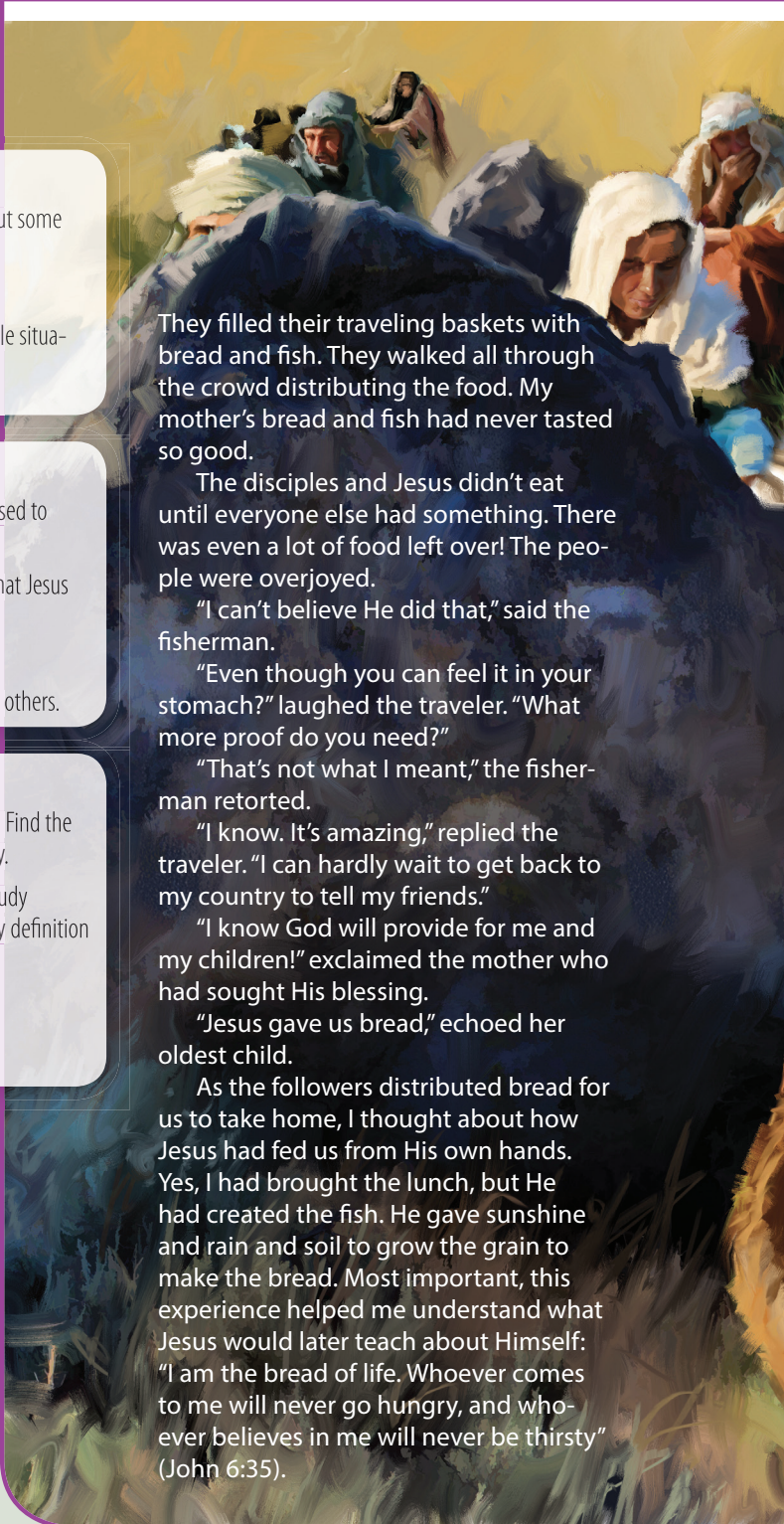
READ Read Romans 6:23.

FIND What is the free gift that God gives us? Find the meaning of the word "salvation" in a dictionary.

WRITE Write your power text in your Bible study journal, substituting words from the dictionary definition for the word "salvation."

SAY Repeat the power text from memory.

PRAY Thank God for the gift of eternal life.



They filled their traveling baskets with bread and fish. They walked all through the crowd distributing the food. My mother's bread and fish had never tasted so good.

The disciples and Jesus didn't eat until everyone else had something. There was even a lot of food left over! The people were overjoyed.

"I can't believe He did that," said the fisherman.

"Even though you can feel it in your stomach?" laughed the traveler. "What more proof do you need?"

"That's not what I meant," the fisherman retorted.

"I know. It's amazing," replied the traveler. "I can hardly wait to get back to my country to tell my friends."

"I know God will provide for me and my children!" exclaimed the mother who had sought His blessing.

"Jesus gave us bread," echoed her oldest child.

As the followers distributed bread for us to take home, I thought about how Jesus had fed us from His own hands. Yes, I had brought the lunch, but He had created the fish. He gave sunshine and rain and soil to grow the grain to make the bread. Most important, this experience helped me understand what Jesus would later teach about Himself: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).



ONLY IN JESUS

How are we to enjoy our life in Christ? Find out by spelling out a Bible verse in this MAZE of letters. You may travel from side to side and up and down, but not diagonally. Start at the purple "I" and finish at the purple "L."

I	H	A	V	E	C	O	M	H	A	T	T	H
H	A	V	E	C	O	M	E	T	O	T	H	E
A	V	E	C	O	M	A	Y	H	T	H	E	Y
V	E	C	O	M	Y	E	H	A	V	E	F	M
E	M	E	T	Y	E	H	T	T	E	L	U	A
C	O	M	E	T	Y	T	F	I	L	I	L	L
F	E	H	T	H	A	T	E	A	N	F	E	A
U	L	L	O	T	T	I	E	V	A	H	D	N