

## International Conversation Cafe

Community Group: Can Life Be Deeply Satisfying?

What tastes better than a great loaf of bread? It satisfies our appetite and makes us feel full and satisfied, content. If you are from the east, you may have the same attitude about rice. Jesus fed people the common staple of his area, bread. In the following story, he fed 5,000 people at once. Then he makes an astounding promise.

John 6: 2- 12

A large crowd of people followed Jesus. They had seen the miraculous signs he had done on those who were sick. Jesus went up on a mountainside. There he sat down with his disciples.

Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to put Philip to the test. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him; "Eight months' pay would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. The number of men among them was about 5,000. Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

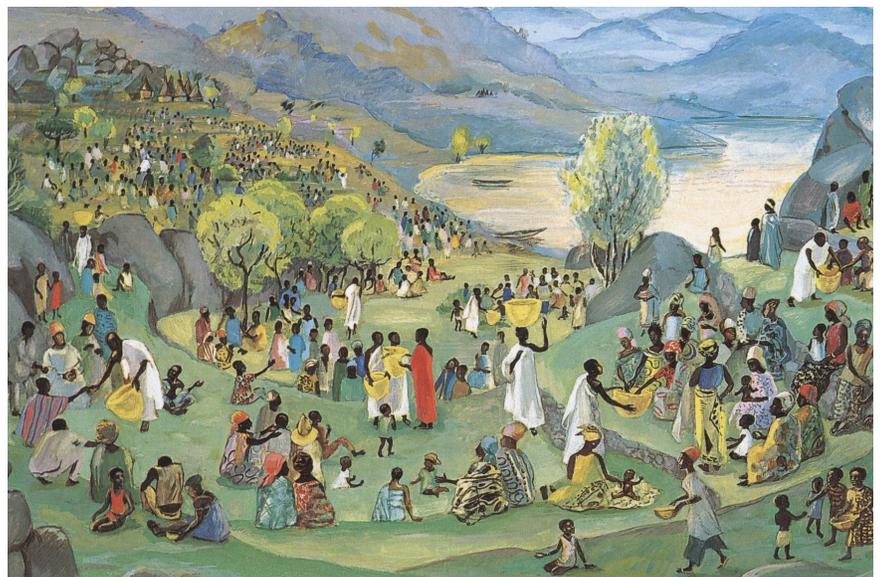
When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Gather the leftover pieces," he said. "Don't waste anything."

So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

*Retell the story in your own words.*

*Describe the scene in this painting.*

*What questions does this story bring up for you?*



## The Astounding Promise

At the conclusion of the story, in John 6:35, Jesus declares, "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."

1. *What do you think Jesus meant when he called himself the bread of life?*
2. *What kind of hunger and thirst do you think he is talking about?*
3. *People often experience emptiness and long to be deeply satisfied. What would you add to your life to make you happier? How long would it make you happy?*
4. *Can another person make someone else happy? How?*
5. *Do you think knowing Jesus could make you truly satisfied in life? In what way?*

In essence, Jesus was saying that a relationship with him makes life deeply satisfying. Beginning a relationship with God is a lot like beginning a friendship. Can you name some steps to grow relationships with people? How might these steps be similar in building a relationship with God?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

What questions do you have about starting a relationship with God?