



Group Guide

Jesus Identified

November 9, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 14:13-21; John 6:1-13

Theological Theme

God radically, abundantly provides for us.

Introduction

- ❓ Who do you know that stands out as a servant for Jesus? What about them makes you say this?
- ❓ What are some ways we could better care for our community, like Jesus and many of His followers have done?

1. Solitude and Compassion (Matthew 14:13-14)

During Jesus's earthly ministry, the gospel writers recorded many instances of Jesus going off alone in solitude to pray, process, and prepare. In one instance, Jesus woke up early and was gone so long that He worried the whole company of followers who were searching for Him (Mark 1:35-37).

- ❓ How do we see Jesus process the news of John the Baptist's death here? Why is this significant?
- ❓ What do we learn about Jesus from His response both to John's death but also to the crowd that followed Him in the moment?
- ❓ Application: What can we learn about compassion in these verses? What about the compassion God has for us?

2. Fed and Satisfied (Matthew 14:15-21)

At this point, Jesus, His followers, and the large crowds were in a remote place and it was late. We get the sense that they had been at this for a while ("when evening came" v. 15), and it was time for dinner, but here, in the remote place they found themselves, there was nowhere to buy food.

- ❓ Consider the disciples' response to Jesus. How might you have responded in the same situation? Why?
- ❓ Think about Jesus's other miracles. What was similar about this one? How was it different?
- ❓ Application: Where have you not believed Jesus's ability to work in daunting circumstances? What do you need to submit to Him today?

3. More Than Enough (John 6:1-13)

As Westerners, we tend to approach Scripture and ask the question "How?" How did that happen? When reading about the feeding of the multitudes, we might naturally ask what did it look like when Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes? How did this all go down? We want to understand. This isn't a bad approach; God wants us to come to the Scriptures and learn. As ancient Middle Easterners, though, the gospel writers were thinking differently. The Middle Eastern approach to understanding the Scriptures would be to ask, "Why?"

- ❓ This is John's account of the same miracle we read about in Matthew. What similarities and differences do you notice?
- ❓ This is the only miracle of Jesus mentioned in all four Gospels. Why might this have been significant enough for all four writers to include it?
- ❓ Application: Why is faith required in bringing what we have to God and seeking His multiplication? What makes this challenging for you?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where do you need to remember God's compassion to you through Jesus? What makes it hard for you to embrace this?
- ❓ How can we seek to live as people of compassion with the needy around us?
- ❓ How does offering our resources to God openly give us a different perspective on the mission of sharing the gospel with everyone we can?