

# The Gospel of John

A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise over a large body of water, with sunbeams breaking through a cloudy sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow across the water and creating a shimmering path of light. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, but the light from the sun creates a golden glow and rays of light that pierce through the clouds. The foreground shows a dark, silhouetted hillside with some vegetation. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a valley with some buildings and fields.

9. Food for the hungry

Reading: John 6:1-14

The Gospel According to JOHN

CHAPTER 1

1 IN the beginning <sup>a</sup>was the Word, and the <sup>b</sup>Word was <sup>c</sup>with God, and the Word was <sup>a</sup>God.  
2 <sup>a</sup>He was in the beginning with God.  
3 <sup>a</sup>All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.  
4 <sup>a</sup>In Him was life, and <sup>b</sup>the life was the light of men.  
5 And <sup>a</sup>the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.  
6 There was a <sup>a</sup>man sent from God, whose name was John.  
7 This man came for a <sup>a</sup>witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might <sup>b</sup>believe.  
8 He was not that Light, that was sent to bear witness.  
9 <sup>a</sup>That <sup>b</sup>was the true Light which

<sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup>1 John 1:1  
<sup>b</sup>Rev. 19:13  
<sup>c</sup>[John 17:5]  
<sup>a</sup>[1 John 5:20]  
2 <sup>a</sup>Gen. 1:1  
3 <sup>a</sup>[Col. 1:16, 17]  
4 <sup>a</sup>[1 John 5:11]  
<sup>b</sup>John 8:12; 9:5;  
12:46  
5 <sup>a</sup>[John 3:19]  
<sup>1</sup>Or overcome  
6 <sup>a</sup>Matt. 3:1-17  
7 <sup>a</sup>John 3:25-36;  
5:33-35  
<sup>b</sup>[John 3:16]  
8 <sup>a</sup>Is. 9:2; 49:6  
9 <sup>a</sup>Is. 49:6  
<sup>1</sup>Or That was the true Light which coming into the world,

cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, <sup>b</sup>'He who comes after me <sup>1</sup>is preferred before me.'"  
16 <sup>1</sup>And of His <sup>a</sup>fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.  
17 For <sup>a</sup>the law was given through Moses, but <sup>b</sup>grace and <sup>c</sup>truth came through Jesus Christ.  
18 <sup>a</sup>No one has seen the only-begotten Son who is in the Father, who has

<sup>26</sup> John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, <sup>b</sup>but there stands One among you whom you do not know.  
<sup>27</sup> <sup>a</sup>"It is He who, coming in the flesh, <sup>1</sup>is preferred before me, <sup>2</sup>whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."  
<sup>28</sup> John answered again, saying, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord,' as the prophet said."  
<sup>29</sup> Many therefore believed in Him there.

The image features a close-up, top-down view of food items. On the left side, there is a stack of several round, golden-brown flatbread or tortilla pieces, showing a slightly textured surface. On the right side, two rainbow trout are laid out parallel to each other, their bodies showing characteristic iridescent colors and dark spots. The entire scene is set against a background of a textured, brown material, possibly a wooden surface or a piece of parchment paper. The lighting is warm and focused, highlighting the textures of the bread and the scales of the fish.

**Feeding the  
five thousand**

# Feeding the five thousand

## Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "*They need not go away; you give them something to eat.*" They said to him, "**We have only five loaves here and two fish.**" And he said, "*Bring them here to me.*" **Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass**, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up **twelve baskets** full of the broken pieces left over. **And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.**

## Mark 6:30-44

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "*You give them something to eat.*" And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "*How many loaves do you have? Go and see.*" And when they had found out, they said, "**Five, and two fish.**" Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. **So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up **twelve baskets** full of broken pieces and of the fish. **And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.**

## Luke 9:10-17

On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." But he said to them, "*You give them something to eat.*" They said, "**We have no more than five loaves and two fish**—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." **For there were about five thousand men.** And he said to his disciples, "**Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.**" And they did so, and had them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, **twelve baskets** of broken pieces.

## John 6:1-14

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "*Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?*" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "**There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish**, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "**Have the people sit down.**" **Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.** Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "*Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.*" So they gathered them up and filled **twelve baskets** with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

After this Jesus went away to the other side  
of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.  
(John 6:1)

...he withdrew from there in a boat  
**to a desolate place** by Himself.  
(Matthew 14:13)

So they departed **to a deserted place**  
in the boat by themselves.  
(Mark 6:32)

He took them and went aside privately  
**into a deserted place** belonging to the city  
called **Bethsaida**.  
(Luke 9:10)



# Question and answer

And a large crowd was following him, because they saw **the signs** that He was doing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.

Now **the Passover**, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip,

*“Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”*

*“Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.”*

(Mark 6:31)

Passover falls in spring  
(March–April)

Many people went up to Jerusalem early, before the Passover

(John 6:2-5)

# Question and answer

8 months wages  
for a labourer!

Two hundred denarii worth of bread  
would not be enough for each of them  
to get a little.

Phillip,  
from Bethsaida

*“Where are we to buy bread,  
so that these people may eat?”*

Peter’s brother,  
Andrew

The bread of the  
common people

There is a boy here who has  
five barley loaves and two fish,  
but what are they for so many?

(See John 6:7-9)

# Question and answer

*“Where are we to buy bread,  
so that these people may eat?”*

He said this to test him [Phillip],  
for He Himself knew what He would do.  
(John 6:6)

**Question:**

**What was He going to do?**

**He was going to give  
the people another sign.**

# Another sign

- **The Passover** is near, when the Exodus and the wilderness journey to Canaan are recalled.
- They are in **a desolate place** – there is no food.
- There is **no natural way** to get enough food.
- Jesus wants to see the people **properly fed**.
- He takes **something small** and gives thanks.
- In **an orderly way** His disciples feed the people.
- Jesus provides **more than enough** for them all.
- Of all that He has provided, **nothing is wasted**.

*What if **you**  
had been there?*

*Would you have seen  
**the food** or **the sign**?*



# Another sign – What does it mean?

**“I am the bread of life;**  
whoever **comes** to Me shall not hunger,  
and whoever **believes** in Me shall never thirst.”  
(John 6:35)

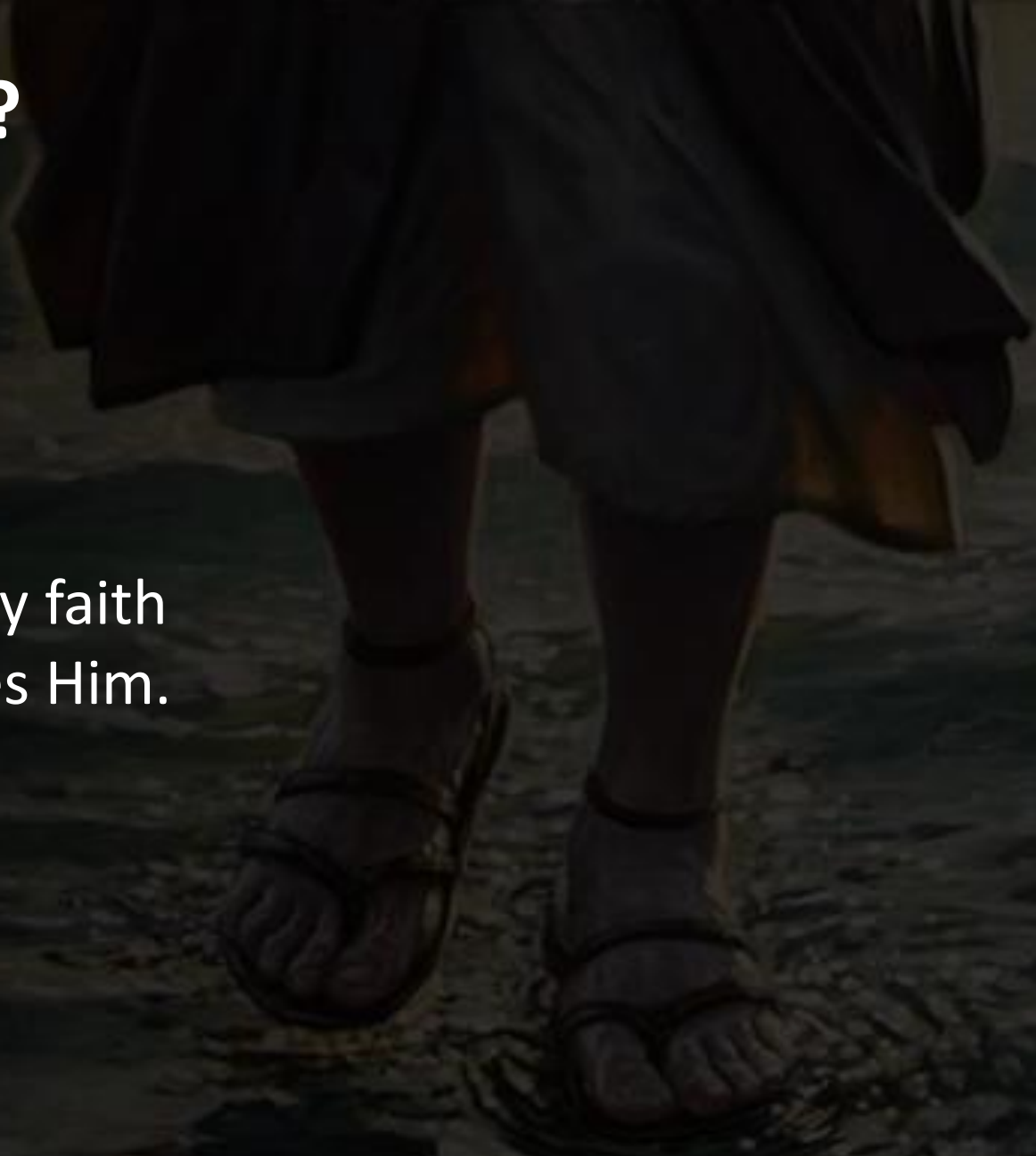
**But first...**

Reading: John 6:16-21



**Is this also a sign?**

The Son of Man lives by faith  
in His Father and serves Him.



# Food for the hungry

...when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him,

“Rabbi, when did You come here?”

(John 6:24-25)

## Reading: John 6:22-35



# Food for the hungry

“Rabbi, when did You come here?”

“Truly, truly, I say to you,  
you are seeking Me,

**not because** you saw **signs**,

but because **you ate your fill** of the loaves.”

(John 6:26)

Jesus is the Messiah,  
the Saviour of the world

**FREE FOOD!**

Come to Jesus for free food!

# Food for the hungry

**“Do not work for the food that perishes,  
but for the food that endures to **eternal life**,  
which **the Son of Man will give to you**.  
For on Him God the Father has set His seal.”**

# Food for the hungry

What must **we do, to be doing**  
the works of God?

This is what God  
wants from us.



This is the work of God,  
that **you believe in Him**  
whom He has sent.



Believing means  
trusting in Him

# Food for the hungry

They are thinking  
of Moses

Then what **sign** do You do,  
that we may see and believe You?

**What work do You perform?**

Our fathers ate the manna  
in the wilderness; as it is written,  
*'He gave them  
**bread from heaven** to eat.'*

Truly, truly, I say to you,  
it was not Moses who gave you  
**the bread from heaven**,  
but My Father gives you  
**the true bread from heaven**.

For the bread of God is He  
who comes down **from heaven**  
and gives **life** to the world.

What sort  
of life?

(See John 6:30-33)

# Food for the hungry

**FREE FOOD!**

Come to Jesus  
for free food!

Sir, give us  
this bread always.

**I am the bread of life;**  
whoever **comes to Me**  
shall not hunger,  
and whoever **believes in Me**  
shall never thirst.

(See John 6:34-35)

# Food for the hungry

Essential food  
that brings life  
and maintains life

**I am the bread of life;**

Parallel statements { whoever **comes to Me** shall not hunger,  
and whoever **believes in Me** shall never thirst. }

He is sufficient  
for every need  
and situation

(John 6:35)

**I am the bread of life;**  
whoever **comes to Me**  
shall not hunger,  
and whoever **believes in Me**  
shall never thirst.

(John 6:35)

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,  
which are not written in this book; but these are written  
**so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,**  
**and that by believing you may have life in His name.**

(John 20:30-31)