

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

July 26, 2015

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**2 Kings 4:42-44**

**Psalms 145:10-18**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

**John 6:1-21**

**JESUS FEEDS**



**5,000**



**All Day Preaching and Dinner on the Grounds.** Object: Picnic Basket

When I was a child, going to church on Sunday was sometimes an all day affair. You see, in the church where I grew up, we sometimes had what we called, "All Day Preaching and Dinner on the Grounds." On that Sunday, most people came to church carrying a big picnic basket like this one I have today. After we had Sunday School and preaching, we went outside and had dinner on the church lawn. Oh what a feast! There was fried chicken, mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables from the garden, and home-made cakes and pies of every kind you can imagine. After dinner, the adults gathered around and sang hymns and the children played games. Some of my best memories of childhood are those Sundays when we had "All day preaching and dinner on the grounds."

That reminds me of something that happened to Jesus and his disciples one day. They got into a boat and sailed across a lake. When they reached the other side, they went up onto the side of a mountain and sat down to rest. But when Jesus looked, he saw a great crowd of people coming toward him. They wanted Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. So, that is exactly what he did. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven.

Soon it was time to eat. Jesus asked one of the disciples whose name was Philip, "Where can we buy enough bread to feed all of these people?"

Philip answered, "Eight months wages wouldn't buy enough bread for each person to have one little bite!"

Andrew, another one of the disciples, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus told the disciples to bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people.

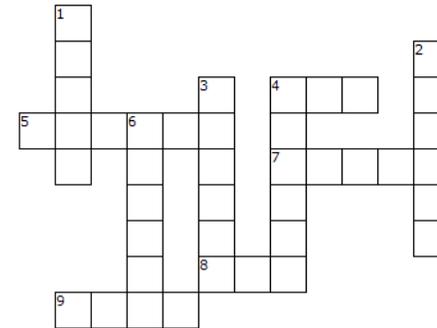
Was it enough? It was more than enough! The Bible tells us that when everyone had eaten as much as they wanted, he told his disciples to gather up what was left over. I'm sure you know what happened. They gathered up enough food to fill twelve baskets!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among us! God has looked favorably on us! Alleluia (Luke 7:16)

Maybe it would be a good idea if more churches today went back to having "All day preaching and dinner on the grounds." It could be a good reminder to us that when we come to Jesus, his blessing is enough. No, it is more than enough.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your goodness. You give us all that we need and more. We thank you in Jesus' name. Amen - Used by permission, sermons4kids

## Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

- 4. A male child
- 5. One more than eleven; two and ten; twice six; a dozen.
- 7. Opposite of large
- 8. To take food into the body through the mouth
- 9. A cold-blooded animal with fins and gills that lives in water

**DOWN**

- 1. A large number of persons gathered together
- 2. The number equal to 6 plus 6
- 3. Human beings -- as a group
- 4. A container made of woven materials such as straw or twigs
- 6. Bread baked in one long piece (plural)

BASKET	CROWD	SMALL	EAT	PEOPLE
BOY	TWELVE	TWELVE	LOAVES	FISH

**BASKET RELAY:** Divide the children into two teams and give each team a basket. Each team member will take a turn running to the FOOD line and grabbing ONE item and running back to their team for the next team member to run to the FOOD line. The game will continue until all the items have been collected.

**FABULOUS FISH:** Let the children draw or trace a fish outline on a piece of paper. Give them some yarn to glue around the edge of the fish and some sequins to glue to the fish as decoration. Write today's Bible verse or the prayer from today's lesson on the fish. Hang by a ribbon or add a magnet to attach fish to the refrigerator at home.



# JESUS FEEDS 5,000



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