



# NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

**Series:** Knowing Jesus

**Date:** April 6, 2026

**Scripture:** [John 6:1-14](#)

**Title:** What You Need

**Author:** Esther Baird

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**Read:** [John 6:1-14](#)

## **Devotional:**

Netcast runs a moms program on Wednesday mornings. It's a time for moms to connect with each other, hear from older (let's say *experienced*) moms about parenting and faith, and spend time in small groups sharing and praying. Friendships form, prayers are offered, and moms get a break from their darling children.

But first, before anything else, the mentor moms who run the program arrive early to set up hot coffee and food.

It's all well and good for moms to come hear a talk about finding time to read their Bible while their two-year-old is swinging from a light fixture, but it's much better when they're holding a hot egg bite and a cup of coffee.

Jesus understood this. He understood the physical limitations of the human body. He knew what it was to be tired and hungry - - because he was fully human.

Our passage today is well known. Even if you didn't grow up in church land, chances are you've heard the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with just a boy's five loaves of bread and two fish.

What's important to notice is that Jesus understood the crowd's physical need for food. Just as God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness in the Old Testament, Jesus provided bread for the hungry people gathered around him. God created us with physical bodies, and he cares about our physical needs. During his time on earth, Jesus healed the sick, ate meals with people, wept with friends, and even washed his disciples' dusty feet.

But Jesus always pointed people to a deeper truth beyond their immediate physical needs.



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## **Devotional cont.**

Yes, we are physical creatures, and one day God will bring his people into an eternal kingdom, a new heaven and new earth. The physical world is not bad or unimportant. But in order to live in that future kingdom that he is preparing for us [Jn 14:2-3], our spiritually broken hearts must be restored.

In the verses that follow our passage, Jesus explains that what we ultimately need is “food that endures to eternal life.” When the people ask about this food, Jesus tells them plainly: “I am the bread of life.”

The gospel tells us that we were created to live in relationship with God, but our sinful hearts broke that relationship. In order for it to be restored, we need Jesus. We need something deeper than physical provision - - we need new spiritual life.

And that is exactly what Jesus offers.

It is because Jesus gives us new life and new hearts that we can live in this broken world with real peace and joy. It's because of the new life Jesus gives us that we can care for the physical needs of those around us with true compassion, because we are grounded in the compassion Jesus first showed us.

Yes, you may need your roof fixed, your illness treated, your migraines to stop, or help paying next month's rent. And in his time and according to his will, God does provide, and further calls us as the church to attend to the needs of those in our community.

But what we need most of all is Jesus himself. We need the one who tells us that he is the bread of life, and that in him we are offered life that lasts forever.



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## Reflection Questions:

- Jesus noticed the crowd’s physical hunger and responded with compassion. What does this passage teach us about how God cares for both our physical and spiritual needs?
- The miracle begins with a small offering—five loaves and two fish. How might God use the small resources or abilities you have to serve others?
- Jesus later explains that he is the “bread of life.” In what ways do you sometimes look to temporary things to satisfy deeper spiritual needs?
- The disciples had to trust Jesus even when the situation seemed impossible. Where in your life right now are you being asked to trust Jesus with something that feels too big?

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