

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Pastor Jay Hassman

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5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Day 1: When Jesus Lifts His Eyes

Reading: John 6:1-5; Psalm 23:1-3

Devotional: Before the disciples recognized the problem, Jesus already saw the people. He did not see a crowd. He saw individuals carrying hunger, sorrow, and unspoken burdens. Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is our Shepherd. The One who sees, leads, and provides. His attention never drifts from those who belong to Him. Consider today how often need surrounds you without capturing your attention. The person beside you in a pew, across a desk, or down a street may be carrying something invisible to everyone else. Jesus lifts His eyes. He calls His followers to do the same. Ask God to show you one person He has placed before you whose need you have stopped noticing.

Personal Reflection: Who in your immediate circle has God placed before you that you have been too hurried or self-focused to truly see?

Day 2: The Limits of Human Calculation

Reading: John 6:6-9; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: Philip counted accurately. His math was not wrong but his calculation simply left Jesus out of the equation. Andrew located one small lunch and immediately questioned its relevance. Both men saw the gap between what they possessed and what was needed, and both stopped short of the only One who could close it. Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust in the Lord with our whole heart rather than relying solely on our own understanding. Planning is wisdom. But when our calculations become the final word on what God can accomplish, we have quietly replaced faith with arithmetic. The disciples had not yet learned that inadequacy, placed before Christ, is not the end of the story.

Personal Reflection: Where in your life has human calculation become the ceiling of your expectation? What need have you quietly concluded is beyond reach because the numbers do not work?

Day 3: The Boy Who Simply Had What He Had

Reading: John 6:9; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Devotional: John is the only Gospel writer who tells us the loaves and fish belonged to a boy. He is unnamed, unrecognized, and carries nothing impressive. Yet what he possessed became the starting point for one of the most remarkable miracles in Scripture. 1 Corinthians 1 describes how God consistently chooses what the world considers weak and foolish to accomplish His purposes, so that no human being may boast before Him. The boy did not feed the multitude because he had plenty. He became part of the miracle because what he had was surrendered. God does not require

impressive resources. He calls for available ones. Your season of feeling small and overlooked does not disqualify you from faithful service.

Personal Reflection: What ordinary resource, gift, or opportunity has God already placed in your hands that you have dismissed as too small to matter?

Day 4: When Jesus Gives Thanks Before the Miracle

Reading: John 6:10-13; Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 3:20

Devotional: Before any bread was multiplied, Jesus gave thanks. He did not wait until the miracle was complete to express gratitude. He thanked the Father before a single hungry person had been fed. This is a profound picture of faith. Gratitude that depends entirely upon a visible result is not trust. That's called a transaction. Philippians 4 calls us to bring our requests to God with thanksgiving, not as a formula that guarantees our preferred outcome, but as an expression of confidence in a faithful Father. Ephesians 3:20 reminds us that God accomplishes His purposes beyond the limits of what we can ask or imagine. The disciples distributed what came from Christ's hands. They could not produce the miracle, but they participated in it. That remains our calling today.

Personal Reflection: Do you find it easier to give thanks after God acts, or are you growing in the ability to trust Him before the outcome is visible? What does your pattern of gratitude reveal about where your confidence truly rests?

Day 5: The Bread That Satisfies Forever

Reading: John 6:14, 35; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9

Devotional: The crowd ate until they were filled and then went home. The next day they sought Jesus again not because they had understood the sign, but because they wanted another meal. Jesus confronted this directly. He declared Himself to be the Bread of Life, the One who meets the hunger no physical provision can touch. Our deepest shortage is not money, talent, or opportunity. It is righteousness before a holy God. Romans 5:8 reminds us that God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Ephesians 2 makes clear that salvation is not earned through service or faithfulness. It is received by grace through faith in Christ alone. Every miracle in John 6 points here: to the Savior who gave Himself as the sufficient provision for our greatest need.

Personal Reflection: Have you been approaching Jesus primarily for what He can provide in your circumstances, or have you received Him as the Savior who meets your deepest and most eternal need? What is the difference between those two postures?