

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Third Sunday after Trinity – 20th June 2021

Read Matthew 14.13-21

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion
in your family.*



This week's Mark of Mission is to respond to human need by loving service. The gospel reading is one of Jesus' most famous miracles – feeding 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus had just heard some tragic news (that his cousin John had been killed) and he wanted to spend some time alone, but a large crowd had followed him. Jesus felt sorry for this crowd of people and spent time with them, teaching them and healing those who were ill. Jesus' compassion for the crowd rubbed off on the disciples. The disciples realised that the people needed to eat something. Have you ever been out late in the day and felt very hungry? What did you do? What happened?



Jesus said that the disciples should deal with the problem. They told Jesus that they only had 5 loaves and 2 fish. It seemed impossible that this would feed so many people! Jesus blessed the food and got the disciples to pass it round. There was enough for everyone and the disciples collected 12 baskets of leftover food afterwards.

What an amazing miracle! It was like a huge picnic with everyone sharing food. What have you shared with others – food, sweets, books, hobbies? How did they react when you shared something?

Jesus had great compassion for the crowd – but he used his disciples to carry out the task of passing round the food. Even though the disciples had very little food, it became enough when Jesus had blessed it. We are Jesus' disciples and he wants us to carry out tasks for him. As Christians we should show compassion for people in need, just like Jesus did. We may feel that there is very little that we can do to help with some of the major world problems of hunger or homelessness but God is directing us – and for God, anything is possible. Even a small act on our part will help. If everyone does something small it builds into a bigger act. Can you do something generous and kind this week for a person in need?

Activity

- Find out about some organizations that help people who are struggling to find enough to eat e.g. The Trussell Trust who run food banks, Christian Aid who support people throughout the world who are living in poverty. Can you or your family donate something to a local food bank this week?

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- Here is a challenge. It shows you that some things that seem impossible may be possible! Using one piece of paper and a pair of scissors, can you make a hole in the paper that is large enough to step through? *The solution is on the next page.*

Prayer

Lord, with you what seems impossible is possible.

This week, show us how we can make a difference.

Help us to respond to those in need. Amen.

Solution to challenge: There may be other ways to complete this challenge, here is one solution:

1. Fold paper in half (width-wise is easiest).
2. Cut a slit in the paper, starting from the folded edge until you almost reach the other end.
3. Alternate along your paper, cutting from the folded edge and then cutting from the unfolded edge.
4. Make sure the end cut also starts from the folded edge.
5. Cut along the fold, in between where the two arrows in the above image are.
6. Open it up. It should be one big circle!

