



Eighth Sunday after Trinity – 25th July 2021

Read John 6.1-21

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

Today's reading may be one that you know very well. It is a story which can be found in each of the gospels, but today's version is from John's gospel and is slightly different from the others.

A large crowd have been following Jesus, and Jesus asks his disciples how they will provide hospitality for all the people. One of the disciples, Andrew, brings a boy's picnic food to Jesus. It seems a ridiculously small amount for so many people. I think that the other disciples probably laughed at Andrew for offering it! Jesus takes the food, blesses it, and distributes it to the crowd. Amazingly, there's enough food for everyone and even 12 baskets of food left over! If you were that boy, would you have had the courage to go to the front of the crowd and offer your picnic to Jesus?

Imagine that you were one of that crowd. How would you have felt when you saw what happened?

The gospel reading then says that Jesus escaped into the hills, but later came to the disciples who were in a boat, walking on the water. Why do you think Jesus needed to get away from the crowd and go into the hills on his own?

There are two miracles in this story – feeding over 5,000 people and Jesus walking on the water. Have you ever seen something so amazing that it seems to be a miracle? It is sometimes very hard to explain why certain things happen – but nothing is impossible for God.



Sharing things with other people is one way in which we can show that we care about them – “Sharing is Caring”. During lockdown many people, including footballers and professional people, delivered food to those who couldn't go out. We saw lots of generous and loving acts. What could you do to help those in need? Like the boy's picnic in the story, it may seem a small thing but even small things can have a big impact.

Activity

- During this week, think of ways of sharing what you have with others. Donate (or donate extra) to a Food Bank, think of starting or resuming some volunteering work if allowed. Look for new ways to share your talents, experiences, resources, and time.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we come to you to be fed by your words.

We come to be strengthened by your love.

Accept our prayers and praise that we offer to you,
and help us to share what we have with others. Amen.