

# Simply Jesus

## The Life and Ministry of God's Son

### Inductive: Lesson 9

#### Introduction

Unbelief had blinded the people of Nazareth from believing in their Messiah. Due to the hardness of their hearts, Jesus chose not to do many miracles in the place He called home. His own family reasoned among themselves that He had gone crazy the people of His hometown had rejected Him. Jesus would now look elsewhere, focusing His attention and that of His disciples in the direction of those who would receive His message and respond to the miracles.

It was time to take the disciples from the security of the classroom and send them out into the arena of life. But they wouldn't go alone; Jesus sent them in teams of two for encouragement and support. Their mission was a call to action as they learned to rely on His power by acting on His word. He instructed them to tell others to repent and turn to faith in Him, for the kingdom of God was at hand. In turn, they were empowered to perform miracles.

As we continue to see the various responses to Jesus' words and works, once more we witness His power over creation in walking on the sea and allowing one of His disciples to do the same. All four Gospels record the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, revealing its critical importance not only to Jesus' own ministry but also the meaning behind it to the foundation of the early church. This particular miracle is preceded in Matthew and Mark's accounts by the darkness of Herod's feast where John the Baptist was beheaded (Matthew 14:1–12; Mark 6:17–29). The evil of Herod's orgy stands in stark contrast to the miraculous provision that Jesus provided for the multitudes on the hillside. The lesson for every believer is that when we are pressed to trust in Him to meet our need, He is able to do great things. His miraculous work in our lives is in direct correlation to His Word.

#### Did you know

John's gospel contains the famous "Bread of Life Discourse," where Jesus pronounces: "I am the bread of life." It is the first of seven emphatic "I AM" statements by Jesus in this gospel, reinforcing the theme of Him as the promised Messiah and Son of God. The remainder of these statements are: "I am the light of the world" (8:12); "I am the door" (10:7, 9); "I am the good shepherd" (10:11, 14); "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25); "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6); "I am the true vine" (15:1, 5).

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

## Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus Feeds the 5,000	<b>John 6:1-14</b>	Matt. 14:13-21; Mk 6:30-44; Lk 9:10-17
Jesus Walks on the Sea	<b>Matthew 14:22-33</b>	Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21
Bread of Life Discourse	<b>John 6:22-71</b>	

## First Impressions: Group Discussion

**Reflect** for a moment on the passages you have just read.

**Respond** by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

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## Heartbeat: John 6:35 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

*And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'*

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## John 6:1–14

### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

- 1 After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.
- 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.
- 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.
- 4 Now the Passover, a fest of the Jews, was near.
- 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, 'Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?'
- 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.
- 7 Philip answered Him, 'Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.'
- 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 'There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?'
- 10 Then Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.
- 11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.
- 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, 'Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.'
- 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.
- 14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, 'This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.'

## Matthew 14:22–33

### Jesus Walks on the Sea

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side,  
while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.  
Now when evening came, He was alone there.

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves,  
for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a  
ghost!' And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.'

28 And Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me  
to come to You on the water.'

29 So He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat,  
he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink  
he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him,  
'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying,  
'Truly You are the Son of God.'

## John 6:28–40

### The Bread of Life Discourse

28 Then they said to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?'

29 Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.'

30 Therefore they said to Him, 'What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?'

31 Our fathers ate manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

32 Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

34 Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.'

35 And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

37 All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.'

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

## Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

### John 6:1–14 Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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**Matthew 14:22–33 Jesus Walks on the Sea**

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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## Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. **Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.**

**Application:** How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 6:1–14

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 14:22–33

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:28–40

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

## Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

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How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

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**Pause . . .** What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

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**Ponder . . .** How will you put it into practice?

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**Pray . . .** Write out your prayer and be specific.

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