

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

July 28, 2024 • 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • John 6:1–15

God Will Provide

We pick up the story from John's Gospel this week. Jesus begins to teach the people who were waiting for him on the other side of the sea. The crowd was huge, and as the dinner hour approached, Jesus realized they needed to be fed. From the offerings of a small boy—five loaves of bread and two fish—Jesus feeds the multitude.

Once Jesus blesses the five loaves and two fish they provide enough food for the thousands of people who have gathered. We hear the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes every year. It is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. As parents there are several messages we can take away from this story.

Be attentive to others' needs. Jesus is the first to take in the large crowd, the time of day and the distance to the nearest town. Jesus always anticipates the needs of others, providing for our needs without being asked. Parents do the same; meals on the table, socks laundered, lunches made. You are Christ to your children.

Ask for help. Jesus admits when the task appears to be beyond him. He asks for advice on how to handle the problem. He asks for help in distributing the food and in cleaning up afterward. Even Jesus realized he needed help at times; we need to follow his example.

Don't underestimate the offerings of a youngster. It's a young boy who provides the essence of the feast. He didn't hide his gift. He shared it generously. Thank goodness Andrew was there to notice

him. Too often, we overlook our youngsters who can sometimes provide just the right ingredient to bring harmony and humor into difficult situations.

God will provide. Jesus, the bread of life, shares his life with us. No matter how dire the situation, we will be fine. That's the good news. God is with us and in us; when we open ourselves to his grace and his love, we will receive everything we need.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Mealtimes are a special time for families. Plan a meal and have each person pick out one food item to be part of the feast. Find a date and put it on the calendar. Make sure everyone is involved in preparing the meal.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What are your favorite mealtime memories? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?