

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - CYCLE A

THEME: The feeding of the crowd

Purpose:

Aspect	Purpose of this session
Profession of faith (what we believe)	Jesus is the Messiah The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian lives
Scripture	Matthew 14:13-21 Miracles – signs of the kingdom
Church and the sacraments (how we worship)	Jesus feeds us in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist
Christian living and morality (how we live)	
Prayer/worship (how we pray)	Gospel contemplation



Welcome and opening prayer: As usual.

Scripture reading and discussion:

Today's gospel reading about the **feeding of the multitude** is one of the few stories that is found in **all gospels**. What does this tell us (**all four gospel writers felt this to be one of the most important miracles**).

Why did Jesus perform miracles?

(Miracles were signs that the kingdom of God was beginning – not magic – signs of God's love and power.

Jesus showed he was the Messiah by performing miracles)

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14:13-21

Read the gospel 2 or 3 times. Pause between each reading.



Now imagine yourselves in the scene and talk about:

- **What was the weather like?** (Probably a hot, dry day in that part of the world)
- **You are one of the people who heard about Jesus and followed him on foot. Why are you following him?** (To see him do a miracle? You are sick and want to be healed? You want to see what all the fuss is about?)
- **You are one of the disciples. What goes through your mind when Jesus says "you give them something to eat"?** (Remember there were 5000 men besides the women and children!)
- **Imagine you are talking with your friend. What do you say to each other when you realise that there is enough food for everyone, and what's more there are 12 baskets of food left over?**



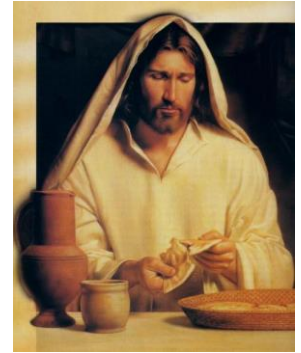
Now be quiet and imagine that at the end of the day, you find yourselves alone with Jesus. In the silence of your hearts, ask if there is anything you would like to say to Jesus? After a few moments, is anything Jesus wants to say to you?

Debrief: Did they enjoy that experience?

This is a good way to pray using the scriptures. It is called **Gospel contemplation** and we can use our imaginations to help us experience being closer to Jesus.



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Activity:

This reading **links with the Eucharist.**

In the gospel reading, **Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to the disciples to distribute.** Jesus did this at the Last Supper. We do this at Mass.

Look at the Mass Missal and go through the words of the consecration.

Jesus continues to feed us every time we come to Mass.
How? (***Liturgy of the Word*** and *Liturgy of the Eucharist*)

Revise the parts of the Mass by putting the cards in order.
For cards, make some by cutting prayer sheet into strips.

Revise: How do we receive Communion?

Make a throne for the Lord (St Cyril) by placing one hand under the other
(or open your mouth to receive on the tongue).

No chewing gum.

Kneel down to pray after receiving.

Don't forget to fast for one hour before receiving Communion.



Closing prayer:

Prayer of your choice or write prayer that you can say after communion.

Perhaps focus on thanksgiving, intercession (praying for others)
and petition (praying for ourselves)
