

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of January 29, 2017

John 6:1-15

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

*After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). <sup>2</sup> A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival. <sup>5</sup> Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew,*

*Simon Peter's brother, said,<sup>9</sup> "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them.<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted.<sup>12</sup> When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted."<sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.<sup>14</sup> When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world."<sup>15</sup> Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.*

**Connection Questions:**

1. According to this passage, why did Jesus have such a large following with him?
2. Why do you think Jesus tested his disciples with the question, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"
3. What did the boy sacrifice by giving up his lunch? How was his sacrifice rewarded?

4. Theologians have differing opinions on what happened at the feeding of the five thousand. Some think Jesus magically changed the loaves and fishes into many. Others think Jesus recognized the boy's sacrifice inspired others to give until everyone was fed. What do you think would have been the greater miracle and why?
  
5. The story also says that there was food leftover. What might that teach us about Jesus' invitation to respond to his call upon our lives?
  
6. Why didn't Jesus allow the crowds to "make him King by force"?
  
7. This story also connects the Passover to the future event of the Lord's Supper. Discuss how.

