



## Session 3



# Jesus Shares Meals

- **Celebration Banners**
- **Class Picnic**
- **Stories about Jesus:**
  - **The Loaves and the Fishes**
  - **Wedding at Cana**
  - **Mary, Martha, and Lazarus**
  - **Zaccheus**
- **Learn a Communion Song**
- **Closing Prayer**

Symbols for the week: Grapes and Wheat

Bible verse for the week:

“I am the bread of life.” *John 6:48*

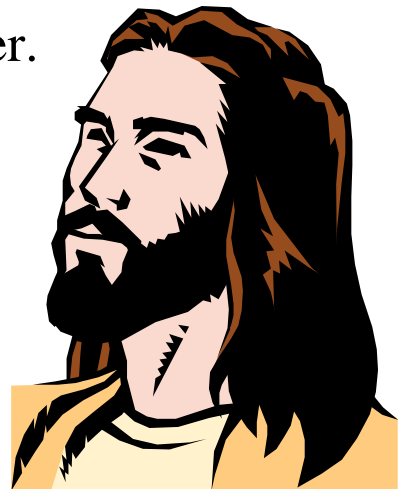


# Jesus Ate With All Kinds of People

Jesus ate with all kinds of people.

- He ate with a whole crowd of people who were listening to him teach.
- He ate fancy dinners at weddings.
- He ate with his friends, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and the disciples.
- He ate with lonely people, who were not liked by other people.
- He cooked fish for a fish fry on the beach with his friends one morning.
- He ate the Passover meal with his disciples.

Let's share some of those stories together.



# The Story of the Loaves and the Fishes

**Narrator 1:** Wherever Jesus went, thousands of followers would come to hear him teach and to be healed of sickness. He and his disciples decided to escape awhile so that they could rest together undisturbed by the crowds of people who followed him. So they traveled to a quiet, peaceful place on the shores of the Galilee. But the people heard of this, and when Jesus arrived the crowds of people were already there waiting for him.

**Jesus:** They are like sheep without a shepherd. (*He greets the crowd by shaking their hands and touching others' heads.*)

**Narrator 2:** His heart was so touched that he went out to meet them. He talked to them with love and understanding. Many were healed and comforted by him.

**Narrator 3:** (*Disciples beckon Jesus away from the crowd. They talk to him in a circle.*) It was getting late and the disciples were concerned. They knew that a good many people had come without bringing any food with them. And they were hungry.

**Person 1:** It's getting very late.

**Person 2:** I'm so hungry!

**Person 3:** We have nothing to eat.

**Person 4:** Where can we find some food?

**Peter:** We are far from town here. Hadn't we better send them away so that they may get something to eat?

**Jesus:** But why do you want to send them away? Why don't you give them something to eat?

**James:** Well ... We could send them to the nearest town to buy some bread.

**Philip:** But there are so many people. That would take hundreds of dollars! How many loaves do you have? Go and see.

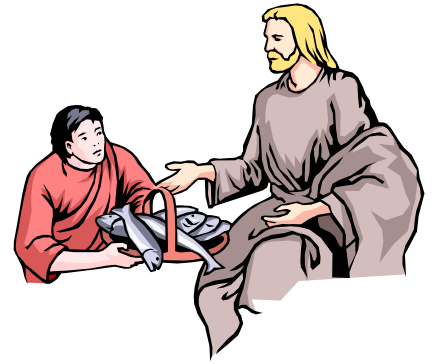
**Andrew:** There is a boy here who has 5 barley loaves, and 2 small fishes. But, what are they among so many?

**Jesus:** Bring the boy here!

**Andrew:** *(Andrew brings the boy with his lunch basket.)*  
Here he is.

**Jesus:** Will you share your lunch with us, little brother?

**Boy:** Yes, I'll be glad to.



**Jesus:** Thank you. They are enough.

*(Jesus holds the food high in the air and blesses it.)*

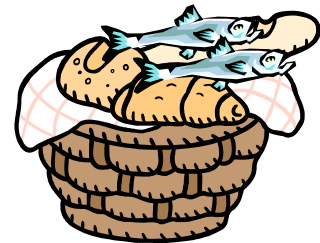
Thank you, God, for feeding the multitudes. *(He places the basket into the box, kneels to pray. The crowd is very quiet now. They look at each other with curiosity and wonder.)*

**Person 1:** Look!

**Person 2:** A-maze-ing!

**Person 3:** This is a miracle!

**Person 4:** There is enough food for everyone!



**Jesus:** Pass the food to the people! *(Disciples, narrators, boy, and others pass out the bread to the people.)*

**Narrator 4:** Somehow in a short time, every one was eating! There was enough for everyone and even 12 baskets of food to spare! *(Hold up baskets to demonstrate.)*

**Narrator 5:** There were over 5000 people who ate, and 12 baskets of food left over. Truly this was a miracle!

**ALL:** Amen!



## A Wedding in Galilee

In the town of Cana, which is near the Sea of Galilee, there was a wedding. Jesus and his mother, Mary, went to the wedding and to the wedding feast. Part way through the feast, a problem arose. The family had run out of wine. This was a big problem, because the custom was for the feast to last several days with plenty to eat and drink.

Mary came to Jesus and told him of the problem. Because his mother asked him to help, he agreed to do so. He told the servants to pour water into 6 huge stone water jars. Each jar holds about 25 gallons each!

Then he told the servants to draw some out. The water had been turned into wine! They took a cup of wine to the master of the banquet and he exclaimed that it was the best wine he had ever tasted!

This was the first miracle that Jesus ever performed.

# Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, Friends of Jesus

Narrator 1: Lazarus was a good friend of Jesus', and he had two sisters named Mary and Martha. They all loved Jesus and spent as much time with him as possible.

Narrator 2: One day Lazarus spent the day with Jesus and his 12 disciples. They listened to Jesus tell about God. When the dinner hour came, Lazarus invited Jesus and the disciples to his home for dinner.

Narrator 3: Mary and Martha were at home cleaning and doing their chores, but they did not expect company for dinner!

Lazarus: Mary, Martha! Guess who's here! Jesus and his 12 disciples! I invited them to come for dinner!

Mary: Wow! This is great! It is such an honor to have Jesus visit us.

Martha: I love Jesus too, but who is going to fix food for 14 hungry men? I better get busy. Mary, come help.

Narrator 1: Martha went to the kitchen and started working as fast as she could to prepare bread and food for the men.

Narrator 2: Mary didn't follow Martha to the kitchen. She sat down at Jesus' feet and listened to him talk about God.

Martha: Where is that Mary? How can I do all of this work by myself?

Narrator 3: Then Martha stormed out of the kitchen and walked up to Jesus.

Martha: Jesus, tell Mary to come help me in the kitchen. There is so much work to do to get dinner ready!

Jesus: Martha, please sit down. I know you think you are doing what is best, but Mary has made the better choice. It is more important to fill your heart with the word of God.



# ZACCHEUS' STORY

My name is Zaccheus, and I'm a tax collector. That is why hardly anybody likes me. Most tax collectors are not honest people. We can collect any amount we want and keep most of it if we want to. Yes, I have done it, too. I am very lonely.

Not only do I stand out because I'm a tax collector, but I'm also short. I'm always the shortest person wherever I go. At home, I even have to stand on a chair to reach things on the top shelf.

One day as I was walking around Jericho, where I live, I heard someone say that Jesus was coming. I had heard about this man and wanted to see him, but I knew I didn't have a chance since there was always a big crowd around Him.

I watched which way the crowd was moving, then ran on ahead and climbed a sycamore tree and waited. It wasn't very long 'til the crowd reached where I was and Jesus walked right in front of me. That is just the way I had planned it.

When Jesus got to the tree, He stopped and looked right at me. I must have looked kind of funny, a grown man sitting in a tree. Then Jesus said, "Zaccheus." How did He know my name? "Zaccheus, come down out of that tree, because I'm coming to your house for supper tonight."

It didn't take me long to get down. In fact I was so surprised, I almost fell out of the tree. "Why, yes, I'd love to have you come to my house to eat," I told Him. I invited all my tax collector friends, too. They were the only ones who would come to my house.

I was so happy to have Jesus in my house that I said, "Lord, half of everything I have I will give to the poor people, and if I have taken anything that wasn't right, I will pay back four times as much as I took."



This made Jesus very happy, because that's just what He wants everyone to do. When we give to others, we show them that we love them, and that we love Jesus, too.