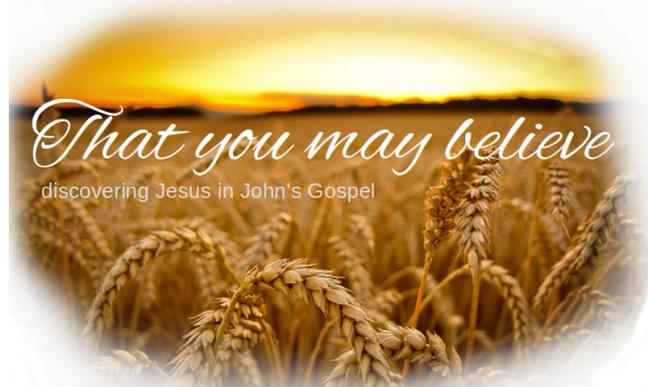


## Week 5: Working lunch

“Most people want Jesus as a consultant rather than a king. Many want to consume the kingdom of God without first carrying the cross of Christ.”

Jonathan Hayashi, author of *Ordinary Radicals: A Return to Christ-Centered Discipleship*



We are continuing our study in John's Gospel looking at the seven signs John chose to show us that Jesus is the Messiah. The fourth sign in the series is one of the most famous events in the ministry of Jesus, but this time the miracle was to become a commentary on the crowds that pursued him. So often sermons on this passage focus on the boy and his lunch. *“Bring the little you have and Jesus will multiply it.”* It's a good preaching point, but there is far more to this story than that. This is about power, authority and how the Kingdom of God will be seen on earth.

### Read John 6:1-15

1. Who hasn't heard this story before, coloured in the Sunday School picture, made the craft activity? But what was the point of it? (The miracle, not the Sunday school activity.) What do you think Jesus had in mind? (v.6)
2. Following the sermon, is there anything in the story that you hadn't seen before?
3. If so, how has that changed the way you see the events in John's account?
4. What does that tell us about our relationship with Jesus?
5. How does that effect the way we believe and what we pray for?

### Deeper In

John tells us some very significant things in this story, that we can easily miss if we just read it as a 'Jesus feeds the crowd' miracle.

First of all it is about timing. There would come a time, when the Jewish Passover Feast was near, when Jesus would be proclaimed king, but not this time and not in this way. When Jesus saw the crowd coming towards him, he knew their intentions and their fickle nature. The size of the crowd is significant because 5000 men equates to the size of a Roman legion. **Read John 12:12-19 & 18:28-40.**

- What are are similarities in the way the crowd behaves?
- What is different about Jesus' role in this passage to how it might have been in John 6:15?

And finally, in John 6:12, just one little point we saw first in Cana. There is always more left over, to be shared out to others.

### Read John 6:25-34

- From what you have just read, why is the crowd following Jesus? Faith, belief or something else?
- What would a relationship with Jesus be like if we were constantly asking for miracles?
- What does Jesus say is the work of God that we can do?
- How have we added to that, a list of our own? Why do we do that?
- What are “the things that spoil”, that you are chasing after?
- How might what we have learnt, change the way you pray and what you pray for?

Next Time: John 9:1-20 -- Eye opener