

## Level 1: Chapter 15: Jesus does wonderful things

Read Para 1&2: break a piece of bread and share it with your child. Explain this is NOT a miracle, because you provided them with the bread from your home. Jesus fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish, and there were 12 wicker baskets of scraps leftover!

Listen to what the Evangelist John wrote in his Gospel:

*After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee. Many people followed him because they saw the miracles he did to heal the sick. Jesus went up on a hill and there sat down with his followers. It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover Feast.*

*Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?" (Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.)*

*Philip answered, "Someone would have to work almost a year to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece."*

*Another follower there was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."*

*Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there. Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.*

*They all had enough to eat. When they had finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything." So they gathered up the pieces that were left. They filled 12 large baskets with the pieces that were left of the five barley loaves.*

*The people saw this miracle that Jesus did. They said, "He must truly be the Prophet<sup>[a]</sup> who is coming into the world."*

*Jesus knew that the people planned to come and take him by force and make him their king. So he left and went into the hills alone.*

Jesus had to make a miracle happen by creating more loaves and fish to feed so many people. Can any of us do that? Why can Jesus do it? Because Jesus is God. Jesus fed the people for the good of the people and because He loved them all, and also to show them that he was God.

A miracle is something that only God can do...it is not a magic trick. (Show them a magic trick and ask if it is a miracle). A trick is meant to fool people, but a miracle is not a trick and can only be done by God to help someone, and show God's love. Sometimes He uses what is available like the bread and fish in the Gospel, but sometimes He uses nothing at all to heal people from the sickness or answer their prayers. Miracles teach people about God's love. When we go to mass, Jesus is still feeding us with the Eucharist- His very own body and blood. He fills our soul with His grace, His love and forgiveness. Jesus is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Life because he feeds our soul and makes us feel great.

Read Para 3: Now listen to what Matthew wrote in his Gospel:

*Jesus got into a boat, and his followers went with him. A very bad storm arose on the lake. The waves covered the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The followers went to Jesus and woke him. They said, "Lord, save us! We will drown!"*

*Jesus answered, "Why are you afraid? You don't have enough faith." Then Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the sea. The wind stopped, and the sea became very calm.*

*The men were amazed. They said, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"*

Imagine you were disciples in the boat in this great big storm...would you be scared? Would you be cold and wet? Would you wonder why Jesus is just there sleeping while the storm is smashing into their boat? Would you have faith to ask Jesus to save you? Now imagine, Jesus getting up and speaking to the storm and stopping it at His word! How would you feel? Would you realize that this was the Son of God who just did a miracle? Do you think the storm would have stopped if Jesus hadn't woken up? The power of man could NOT stop a storm- only Jesus and God could. He did this to save the Apostles, to calm their fears, to show His love for them and to show them that He was in fact God, and give them faith.

Are there similar ideas in both Gospels- the multiplication of the loaves and fish and Jesus calming the storm? Man alone could not do them, only God has that power; the miracles gave faith to the people there and showed them that Jesus was the Son of God; the miracles helped people; and both miracles show God's love for man.

Read Para 4: Listen to the Gospel of Matthew again:

*While Jesus was saying these things, a ruler of the synagogue came to him. The ruler bowed down before Jesus and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and touch her with your hand, and she will live again."*

*So Jesus stood up and went with the ruler. Jesus' followers went too.*

*Jesus continued along with the ruler and went into the ruler's house. Jesus saw people there who play music for funerals. And he saw many people there crying. Jesus said, "Go away. The girl is not dead. She is only asleep." But the people laughed at Jesus. After the crowd had been put outside, Jesus went into the girl's room. He took her hand, and she stood up. The news about this spread all around the area.*

Because Jesus is God, He raised this girl from the dead. An incredible miracle. Who else raises Himself from the dead later on? Jesus Himself.

Read Para 5: Isaiah, a great prophet from the Old Testament told the Jewish people that the Messiah, or Savior would do these things so they would recognize Jesus when He would come.

Read Para 6: Because Jesus is God, He can work miracles in our lives too! If we ask Jesus for something, and if it is really for your own good, Jesus can make a miracle happen- for example, He can make a sick person better. Every mass at church a miracle happens when the bread and wine that Fr Robert hold up becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. He is still feeding our hungry souls today!

Read Para 7: Listen to what the Evangelist Luke wrote: (Luke was a physician or doctor by the way)

*One day Jesus was teaching the people. The Pharisees and teachers of the law were there, too. They had come from every town in Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. The Lord was giving Jesus the power to heal people. There was a man who was paralyzed. Some men were carrying him on a mat. They tried to bring him in and put him down*

*before Jesus. But because there were so many people there, they could not find a way to Jesus. So the men went up on the roof and made a hole in the ceiling. They lowered the mat so that the paralyzed man was lying right before Jesus. Jesus saw that these men believed. So he said to the sick man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*The Jewish teachers of the law and the Pharisees thought to themselves, "Who is this man? He is saying things that are against God! Only God can forgive sins."*

*But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, "Why do you have thoughts like that in your hearts? Which is easier: to tell this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to tell him, 'Stand up and walk'? But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, stand up! Take your mat and go home."*

*Then the man stood up before the people there. He picked up his mat and went home, praising God. All the people were fully amazed and began to praise God. They were filled with much respect and said, "Today we have seen amazing things!"*

Did Jesus go to the sick man or did the sick man come to Jesus? What was wrong with him? What did Jesus first say (His sins were forgiven). Why did Jesus say this if his body was sick (Jesus healed his body as a sign of healing his soul too)

Read Para 8: Jesus still offers His healing and forgiveness through the Church. A priest not only gives blessings for us all, but heals and forgives sins in the Sacraments, like Confession or Reconciliation. If someone is sick in the hospital, Jesus wants to heal them, just like He did when He lived on earth. So a priest will go visit the sick person and anoint them with oil. Sometimes Jesus heals the body, and sometimes Jesus heals their souls so they can join Him in Heaven. In this way, Jesus, through a priest, still works miracles.

Through Confession, or when we tell all our sins to the priest, we are forgiven- this is Jesus who is forgiving us through the priest. The priest acts in the person of Jesus to forgive us our sins...and...it feels so good to confess because the Holy Spirit rushes back into your life and fills you with God's Grace again. It is a miracle as it cleans our souls.