

## The Dot - 1/22/21

**Bible Stories and Characters:** Jesus Feeds The 5000

**Bible Passage:** Mark 6:30-44

**Interviewee:** Elise Horrocks



### Overview/Summary

Jesus' 12 disciples had just returned from a missionary journey. Great crowds of people in the area heard that Jesus was near. They ran to see Him, bringing their sick friends and relatives. When the boat landed, Jesus saw all the men, women and children and had compassion on them.

It was getting late, so the disciples suggested to Jesus that the crowd disperse to get their own food. Looking at the crowd, which numbered about 5,000 men, not counting women and children, Jesus asked His disciples to feed them. They wondered how they would feed the crowd with only five small loaves of bread and two small fish.

They did as Jesus asked and everyone—men, women and children—ate as much as they wanted! Jesus miraculously multiplied the loaves and fishes so there was more than enough. Then He told his disciples to gather the leftovers so nothing was wasted. They collected enough to fill 12 baskets.

### What We Learn:

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus went around preaching the gospel and healing through many of the towns and villages. Why? "When he saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus has compassion on people's physical and spiritual needs.

The world today is still full of troubled and hurting people who need the Savior's gentle care. Like a shepherd who leads, protects, and cares for His sheep, Jesus extends His compassion to all who come to Him. No matter where we are in life and what we're experiencing, in Him we find a heart overflowing with tenderness and care. And when we've been a recipient of God's loving compassion, we can't help but want to extend it to others.

### Reflection Questions:

- In Mark 6:34 it says that Jesus "had compassion on them." What does compassion mean? Who has shown you compassion?
- How did Jesus show compassion to the crowd? What would you have thought or done if you were one of the disciples?
- Read Ephesians 4:32- *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Why can it be difficult to show compassion to others?
- What are specific ways you can show compassion this week? (encouraging others, buying someone's lunch, helping someone carry their books, clearing the dinner table, etc.) Don't just think about it...DO IT!