



## Connected in Words



**Remembering the journey,  
keeping the faith:  
Everyone has a story to tell...**

**The TV show 'Who Do You Think You Are?' tells the stories of the family history of well-known figures. Some of the background uncovered is truly fascinating – part of our history that sometimes we never got taught about in school!**

**Whose back-story would you most like to discover? What might it tell you about them?**

Raead the story of the feeding of the 5,000 as related in John chapter 6 (The story can also be found in Matthew chapter 14 & Mark chapter 6):

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?” He said this to stretch Philip’s faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered, “Two hundred silver pieces wouldn’t be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece.”

<sup>8-9</sup> One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, “There’s a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that’s a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.”

<sup>10-11</sup> Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

<sup>12-13</sup> When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted.” They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

<sup>14-15</sup> The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, “This is the Prophet for sure, God’s Prophet right here in Galilee!” Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself.

There are several characters in this story:

The crowd; Phillip; Andrew; the other disciples; the boy who offers his lunch; Jesus

Look at each one in turn: What’s their story? What makes them act and think the way they do? Which one do you identify with most?

Now read part 2 of the story:

Jesus answered, “You’ve come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs—and for free. <sup>27</sup> “Don’t waste your energy striving for perishable food like that. Work for the food that sticks with you, food that nourishes your lasting life, food the Son of Man provides. He and what he does are guaranteed by God the Father to last.”

<sup>28</sup> To that they said, “Well, what do we do then to get in on God’s works?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Throw your lot in with the One that God has sent. That kind of a commitment gets you in on God’s works.”

<sup>30-31</sup> They waffled: “Why don’t you give us a clue about who you are, just a hint of what’s going on? When we see what’s up, we’ll commit ourselves. Show us what you can do. Moses fed our ancestors with bread in the desert. It says so in the Scriptures: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

<sup>32-33</sup> Jesus responded, “The real significance of that Scripture is not that Moses gave you bread from heaven but that my Father is right now offering you bread from heaven, the *real* bread. The Bread of God came down out of heaven and is giving life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> They jumped at that: “Master, give us this bread, now and forever!”

<sup>35-38</sup> Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever. I have told you this explicitly because even though you have seen me in action, you don’t really believe me. Every person the Father gives me eventually comes running to me. And once that person is with me, I hold on and don’t let go. I came down from heaven not to follow my own whim but to accomplish the will of the One who sent me.

<sup>41-42</sup> At this, because he said, “I am the Bread that came down from heaven,” the Jews started arguing over him: “Isn’t this the son of Joseph? Don’t we know his father? Don’t we know his

mother? How can he now say, ‘I came down out of heaven’ and expect anyone to believe him?”

(Jesus answered) “This is what the prophets meant when they wrote, ‘And then they will all be personally taught by God.’ Anyone who has spent any time at all listening to the Father, really listening and therefore learning, comes to me to be taught personally—to see it with his own eyes, hear it with his own ears, from me, since I have it first-hand from the Father. No one has seen the Father except the One who has his Being alongside the Father—and you can see *me*.<sup>47-48</sup> I’m telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life.<sup>51</sup> The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self.”

This discussion between Jesus & the crowd reads like a press conference – a bunch of people throwing questions, accusations and counter-arguments at Jesus, trying to get a handle on where He fits into the big story, as He calmly yet passionately explains who He is and why He’s come.

What question would you ask Jesus today?

We know how the story ends: With Jesus' death and resurrection - or rather, thus begins a new chapter! How does knowing His life story help you to believe and follow Jesus as a person, not just as part of the religious story of Christianity?

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For further study & reflection: Do some background research into Jesus as a historical figure & the world He lived in. How will that information shape your understanding of the Bible and help deepen your discipleship?

We remember Jesus as 'Bread of Life' every time we share communion – "Do this in remembrance of me". Next time you take communion, ask Jesus to remind you of your backstory of your relationship with Him, and to reveal to you your place in His-story..