

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

PICNIC

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Feeding the five thousand (Matthew 14: 13-21)

All four gospels relate an account of Jesus feeding the five thousand. On the one hand, this narrative looks back to the way in which Moses fed the Israelites on manna in the wilderness. On the other hand, this narrative looks forward to the way in which Jesus feeds his followers at the last supper and in the eucharist. The link with the eucharist is made stronger by the way in which the narrative draws attention to the four-fold actions when Jesus took the bread, blessed, broke and distributed the pieces.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *picnics*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 14: 19-21)

Jesus ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.
Taking the five loaves and the two fish,
he looked up to heaven,
and blessed and broke the loaves,
and gave them to the disciples,
and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
And all ate and were filled;
and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces,
twelve baskets full.
And those who ate were about five thousand men,
besides women and children.

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you fed five thousand people
with five loaves and two fish.
Inspire your people today,
to share the riches of your food
throughout the world;
for you are the Bread of Life.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on the narrative of the feeding of the five thousand in Matthew 14: 13-21:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- what do you learn from Jesus having *compassion* for the crowd?
- what do you learn from the disciples wanting to send the crowd away?
- what do you learn from Jesus' invitation 'you give them something to eat'?
- what do you learn from Jesus' four actions: taking, blessing, breaking, and distributing?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Compare Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand with his source material in Mark and with the account in John's Gospel:

- Mark 6: 31-44
- John 6: 1-14

Explore passages in the Old Testament that draw on images of God feeding the people of God:

- Exodus 16: 1-15
- Isaiah 55: 1-5
- Psalm 145: 15-end

Exploring online

- explore the feeding of the five thousand in stained glass
- explore the Godly Play video of the feeding of the five thousand
- explore Ratty's picnic from *Wind in the Willows*

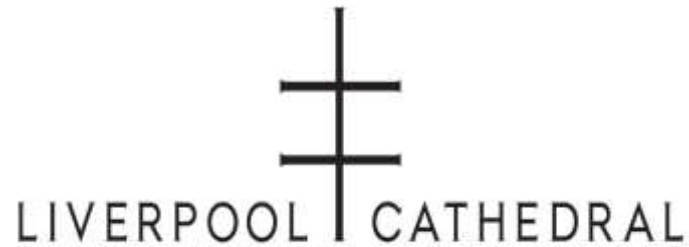
Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experience of picnics
- reflect on your experience of eucharists conducted outside (e.g. Walsingham National Pilgrimage)
- reflect on the various contexts in which you have experienced eucharist

PROPER 13 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2020

Creating and making

- plan the menu for a picnic and then go out to enjoy it
- make a collage of Ratty's picnic and draw in 'characters' from your congregation
- design a stained glass window of the feeding of the five thousand
- create a reflection, poem or prayer on the theme of the feeding of the five thousand



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2020
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Christopher's College Trust
St Mary's Centre, Wales