## SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES 6 FEBRUARY 2022

## Lesson Three (6 February, 2022): Jesus shares the Good News (John 6:1-14)

People don't learn easily from boring lists and rules. We learn much better when we have a teacher who acts things out or who tells a story. And God knows that – after all he made us! So he gave us his words in the form of stories: the Bible is a 'book full of stories'. He is aiming to teach us through these stories – not just to give us all the details

And Jesus did the same. When the words he read in the synagogue in Nazareth annoyed the people, he didn't argue with them in words. He simply set out to show by his actions that he really was the Messiah!

Almost every day a huge crowd followed Jesus to listen to his stories and to see miracles. How cool it would be, they thought, to see a crippled person jump up able to run and dance.

One day they were so interested they stayed too late. The disciples wanted to send them away to buy their own supper, but Jesus cared so much that he planned to show his love by feeding them

Now he could have rained bread or pizza for them! But he didn't. He wanted to teach some other lessons.

First, he asked his disciples what they could do. They were horrified at the idea of feeding 5 000 people! Philip did the sums: that would cost a fortune and they didn't have the money! Andrew, however, told Jesus there was a boy there with his picnic lunch – but that was too little to be of much use. I wonder if people who could overhear him laughed at Andrew for even mentioning it. But Jesus took him seriously and took the food.

Imagine if the little boy had been greedy and refused to hand it over! Imagine the story he had to tell his family and friends when he got home – he and Jesus had fed 5000 people!

And of course Jesus used that meal to feed 5 000 people – and there were 12 basketfuls left over! Notice he didn't only feed the good people or the adults; he took care of everyone

Jesus later used this action event to explain that he is 'The Bread of Life', broken for us on the cross (just as the bread rolls were broken) because God wants us to realise that we are loved and precious.

Sadly some folk that day ate the bread and fish, but didn't get the message of God's love. So they didn't learn to trust him. That happens today too, even though we have a whole Bible telling us that he loves us and wants us to share in his work. Are you going to be like that boy and allow Jesus to show his love through you? Or are you going to talk about Jesus' actions but not listen to the message of his love? You have to decide.