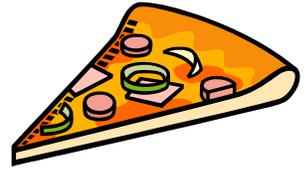


# Jesus Feeds the Crowd – Matthew 14:13-21

## – Grades 6-8



By way of cell phones and the Internet, today's technologically savvy young people emotionally connect with one another by sharing videos, songs, and pictures. The story of the multiplication of loaves and fish illustrates how Jesus shares himself in order to feed us spiritually.

### Materials Needed

- None

### Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Ask the young people what food they would order at this very moment if they had the chance.
2. Invite volunteers to share choices.
3. Explain that the human body needs energy and that there are detectors in our brains keeping track of our energy supplies.
4. Say: *When energy levels get low, these detectors send out a signal, letting us know by making us hungry that we need to replenish our energy.*
5. Tell the young people that we use the word *hunger* to describe human desire for needs other than food.
6. Arrange the young people in groups of three or four. Have them brainstorm a list of spiritual, emotional, and psychological things that humans typically hunger for. Examples are compassion, forgiveness, friendship, and affirmation.
7. After a few minutes, record each group's ideas on the board.
8. Say: *Just as our bodies require the proper nourishment for energy, we also need the proper spiritual nourishment to meet our emotional needs. In this Sunday's Gospel, we learn about how Jesus feeds our spiritual hunger.*
9. Have volunteers read aloud Matthew 14:13-21.
10. Ask: *What do Jesus' disciples want to do with the hungry crowd?* (dismiss or send the people away) *What does Jesus use to feed the great crowd with?* (five loaves of bread and two fish) *What does this story teach us about our spiritual hunger?* (Jesus feeds us.)
11. Say: *Let's pray that in the days to come, we will turn to Jesus to ask for everything that we need—our daily bread.*
12. Conclude this time together by praying aloud the Lord's Prayer.