

Tangible Signs

There is a time gap between chapters 5 and 6 of John. In John 6:4 we learn that it is almost time for another Passover, so a full year could have passed since the events of chapter 5. Evidence from the Synoptic gospels indicates that in this interim Jesus was ministering in Galilee and the numbers of people following Him were multiplying. (See Matthew 4:23-25 and Mark 3:7-10.)

Drawing Near: “Holy Father, show us the way of faith as we journey on with Jesus and His disciples. Help us to taste and experience the next two miracles of our Lord and discover their spiritual significance. Amen.”

Read John 6:1-15 from several translations if possible. *The feeding of the five thousand* is the fourth sign recorded by John to prove that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God. This is the only miracle of Jesus that is recorded in all four gospels. The great throng are recipients of an act of Divine generosity and compassion in which Jesus most creatively and amply supplies their need. *The feeding of the five thousand is a valuable precursor to Jesus' discourse on the bread of life.*

1. Using the inductive method of *observation, interpretation* and *application* as sectioned off below, complete your own study of this amazing miracle.
Observation – What does it say? Record the facts.

Interpretation – What does it mean? What is revealed about Jesus?

Application – What applications do you find employable with respect to your own life?

In the next portion of Chapter 6 we see another awe-inspiring facet of Jesus' Divine attributes.

Read John 6:16-21.

2. Once again, do your own study of Jesus' next miraculous sign, using the *observation*, *interpretation* and *application* study skills.

Observation: Record the facts.

Interpretation: What does Jesus reveal about Himself?

Application: What applications are pertinent to your own life?

3. Compare John 6:16-21 to Matthew 14:22-33. What additional information did Matthew report on this incident?

4. What do Peter's words and actions (Matthew 14:28-31) indicate about his faith?

Take some time to reflect on these two miracles. Imagine that you are experiencing Jesus' miraculous signs. Consider your previous perception of Jesus as Messiah prior to these miracles. Jesus is building faith, trust and dependency into His disciples (and into us) through extraordinary means.

5. How has Jesus miraculously fulfilled your hopes and needs personally?

Pause **each day** this week to adoringly behold your Eternal Lord and God, Jesus Christ.