

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two¹² small fishes: but what are¹³ they among so many?

10¹⁴ And Je'sus said, Make the¹⁵ men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11¹⁶ And Je'sus took the loaves; and¹⁷ when he had given thanks, he distributed¹⁸ to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were sat down; ¹⁹ and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

Revised Version—¹away to the other side of the sea; ² beheld the signs; ³ sick; ⁴ the; ⁵ now the; ⁶ at hand; ⁷ Jesus therefore lifting up; ⁸ seeing that a great multitude cometh; ⁹ Omit he; ¹⁰ are we to buy; ¹¹ Omit of them; ¹² Omit small; ¹³ these; ¹⁴ Omit And; ¹⁵ people; ¹⁶ Jesus therefore took; ¹⁷ having given; ¹⁸ Omit six words; ¹⁹ likewise also; ²⁰ And when; ²¹ saith; ²² broken pieces which remain over; ²³ So they; ²⁴ up, and; ²⁵ broken pieces from; ²⁶ Omit and above; ²⁷ when therefore the people saw the sign which he did, they said; ²⁸ cometh.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Starving Crowd, 1-6.
- II. The Scanty Provision, 7-9.
- III. The Satisfying Meal, 10-14.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—Jesus feeds the five thousand, John 6: 1-14.
T.—Jesus feeds the five thousand, John 6: 15-21.
W.—Elisha feeds the hungry, 2 Kgs. 4: 38-44. Th.—A friend in need, Luke 11: 5-13. F.—Bread provided, Ex. 16: 11-18. S.—God's provision for man's need, Ps. 65. S.—Satisfying the poor, Ps. 132: 8-18.

Primary Catechism—*Ques.* 17. *What are God's works?* A. The world and everything in it, the sun, the moon, and the stars. *Ques.* 18. *What do God's works tell us about Him?* A. God's works tell us of His wisdom, His power, and His love.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 1-11.

12²⁰ When they were filled, he²¹ said unto his disciples, Gather up the²² fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13²³ Therefore they gathered them²⁴ together, and filled twelve baskets with²⁵ the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over²⁶ and above unto them that had eaten.

14²⁷ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Je'sus did, said, This is of a truth²⁸ that prophet that²⁹ should come into the world.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: Memory Hymn—Primary, 14 (Ps. Sel.); Junior, 1 (Ps. Sel.), 418, 18, 320, 301.

Special Scripture Reading—John 4: 42-46; given also in Departmental Graded Teacher's Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 488, Book of Praise; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson B. 1014, Feeding the Five Thousand. For Question on Missions, J. M. 50, Jewish Work—Open-air Meeting. (These slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto. Schools desiring slides made may procure them on short notice by sending negatives, prints or photographs. Slides are colored to order.)

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Time and Place—Shortly before the Passover, A.D. 29; near Bethsaida Julias.

Connecting Links—A whole year intervenes between last lesson (ch. 5: 1-15) and to-day's. This period in the life of our Lord, which John passes over in silence, was filled with a busy ministry of teaching and healing in Galilee related in the other Gospels. Immediately before the lesson, he had heard at Capernaum, on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, of the murder of John the Baptist, Matt. 14: 1-12. At the same time the Twelve returned to him from the tour of preaching and healing on which he had sent them, Mark 6: 7-13; Luke 9: 1-6, 10. In order to secure quiet and rest for himself and the disciples, Jesus crossed the lake with them to the neighborhood of Bethsaida Julias, on the northeastern shore.

I. The Starving Crowd, 1-6.

Vs. 1, 2. *After these things.* Jesus had just learned at Capernaum of John the Baptist's death (Matt. 14: 10-13), and the twelve apostles had just returned to him from a mission on which he had sent them, Luke 9: 10.

Went over the sea. See Between the Lessons. *Of Tiberias.* See Geography Lesson. It was also called Sea of Galilee and Lake of Genesaret. *A great multitude followed him.* Seeing the direction which Jesus took, they went round by land, Mark 6: 33. From Capernaum to Bethsaida was seven or eight miles. *Because they saw his miracles.* The life of Jesus was a daily ministry of healing and help.

Vs. 3, 4. *Went up into a mountain;* to find rest in some solitary spot. *The passover . . . was nigh;* the last before the one at which the Saviour died as the "Lamb of God" to take away "the sin of the world," ch. 1: 29.

V. 5. *Jesus . . . seeing that a great multitude cometh* (Rev. Ver.). Apparently this multitude came in addition to the crowd which had tracked him out. The reference in v. 4 to the Passover as being at hand suggests that this was a company en route for Jerusalem. *Saith unto Philip;* whose home was near by, ch. 1: 44. Philip was a shrewd, calculating man of business, practised in working out plans to overcome difficulties. But, at the