

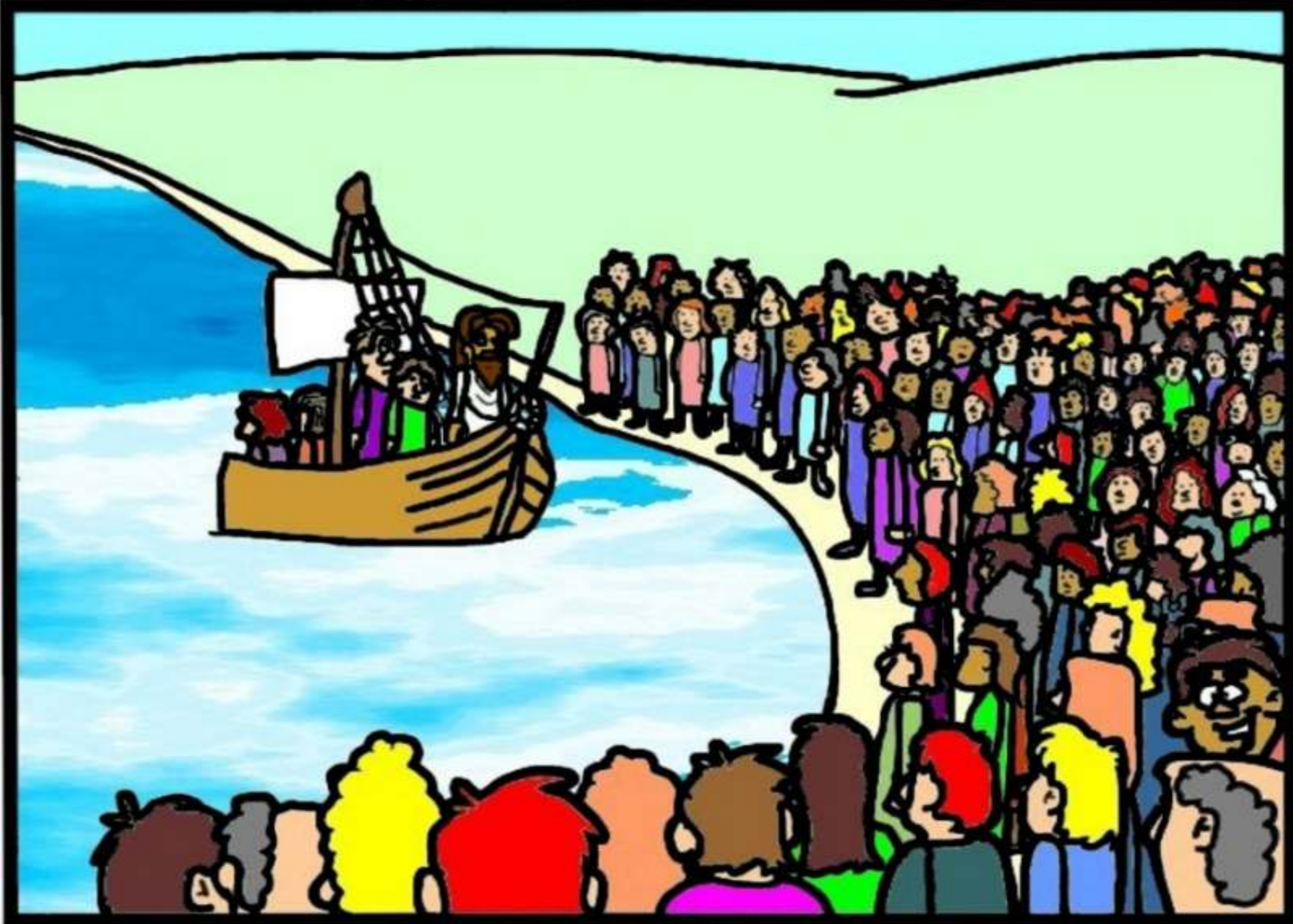
Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

(Based on Mark 6:30-44, Math 14:13-21
Luke 9:10-17,
John 6:22-30)

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"Boys," said Jesus. "Let's go to a place where there are no people and rest for a while." The disciples had just returned from their trips to the villages, preaching and healing the sick people. They got into a boat and crossed the lake.



But the crowds found out and they ran on foot, all the way around the lake to meet him on the other side. Jesus looked at them and he loved them. As soon as he got out of the boat, he healed the sick people. Before long, it was the end of the day.



"Philip, where are we going to buy bread for all these people?" asked Jesus. (This was a test. Jesus already knew what he was going to do.) "Two hundred dollars wouldn't buy even a little for each person," answered Philip.



"Hey Jesus," said Andrew. "This little boy has five barley bread loaves and two fishes, but I guess that's not enough for all these people." "Make the people sit down," commanded Jesus.



Everybody sat down on the grass. There were about 5,000 men. Jesus took the loaves and the fishes, he gave thanks and then he started passing them out to the people. Everyone ate as much as they wanted.



"Go gather up the broken pieces of bread and fish that are left over so that nothing goes to waste," said Jesus to the disciples. The disciples filled up twelve baskets with the leftover bread and fish.



That night Jesus and his disciples crossed over the lake, but the people didn't see Jesus leave. "Hey where did he go?" asked the people. They got into boats and went to the other side too.



"You aren't looking for me because you saw the miracles," answered Jesus. "You are looking for me because you ate free food! Work hard at getting the meat (spiritual food) that lasts forever, not the food for your belly."



Lord, thank you for all the food you give me for my belly but especially thank you for the spiritual food - your Word.