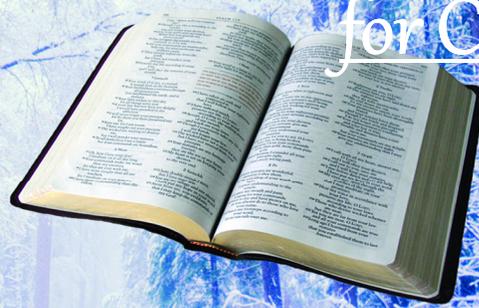


Christian MONTHLY

for Children

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Winter 2015

LOAVES & FISHES

John 6

Jesus did many miracles of healing sick people, and great crowds followed Him. One day, Jesus went up a mountain and sat down with His disciples. He saw a crowd coming, and He said to Philip, “Where should we buy bread so that these people can eat?” Jesus was testing Philip, because Jesus knew what He was going to do.

Philip answered, “Two hundred *denarii* wouldn’t buy enough bread for each of them to have a little bite!” In Jesus’ time, a *denarius* was the amount of money that a person earned by working hard for one whole day.

Andrew said, “There is a young boy here with five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they for so many?”

Then Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” They sat down on the grassy hillside, and there were about 5,000 men! Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks to the Father. Then He gave bread to the disciples, who passed it to those sitting on the ground. Next, Jesus did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. When everyone was full, Jesus told His disciples,

“Gather up the leftovers so that nothing is lost.” The disciples collected 12 baskets full of bread pieces which were left over after everyone had eaten.

The people were amazed at this miracle, and they wanted to make Jesus their king. They wouldn’t ever have to work for food again! But Jesus went away by Himself. The crowds searched for Him and when they found Jesus the next day, Jesus said to them, “You are looking for Me because you ate the free bread until you were full, not because of the miracles. Don’t work for food that will rot, but for food that will last to eternal life! The Son of Man will give you that food, because God the Father has sealed Him.”

The people asked, “How should we do the works of God?”

Jesus answered, “This is the work of God: believe in Him whom God has sent.” Then Jesus explained that the Father gives the true bread from heaven. Jesus is the bread who came down from heaven to give life to the world.

Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty. Everyone the Father gives to Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never throw out. The Father who sent Me wants that every one who sees the Son and believes on Him would have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me has eternal life. I am the Bread of Life, the Living Bread which came down from heaven. If any one eats this Bread, he will live forever. The Bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

Jesus did what He said. He gave His body and blood for the life of the world when He was crucified on the cross!



The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes James Tissot
Wikimedia Commons

Toddlers

Through Three Years

Jesus is the Bread of Life. He came down from heaven to save you. He loves you and He wants to give Himself to you. He wants you to live forever in heaven. Trust and believe in Jesus, because He died for you. Jesus is the Best Bread.



Tots

Four-Six Years



Jesus fed more than five thousand people with a young boy's lunch of five barley loaves and two little fish. This was a great miracle! Jesus provided the food for all those people.

But Jesus did more than that. He made the sun shine and the rain fall, so that the barley seeds would sprout. He made the barley plants grow. He even made the dirt that was in the barley field.

And that's not all! Jesus made the fish hatch from eggs and then grow. He made the tiny things that the fish ate. He even made the water that the fish lived in.

God Gives Daily Bread

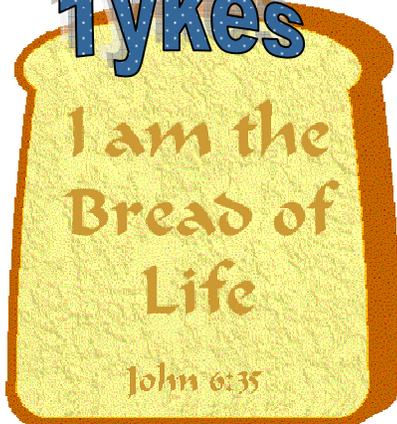
Our Father is the Best Provider. He feeds you every day, in ways that may seem like tiny "miracles" when you look closely at them.

Jesus still makes the sun shine and the rain fall so barley and other grains will grow. He still makes fish and other sea foods. He makes fruits and vegetables. He makes eggs and milk and meat. He makes sticky honey and sweet maple syrup.

We pray in the Lord's Prayer that God would give us bread for each day, and we thank Him for our daily bread. Remember always to thank God for food to eat, and notice the little "miracles" that Jesus does every day in providing your food.

Tykes

Ages Seven-Ten



You need food to live. Food gives your body energy so you can grow strong and healthy. If you stopped eating, you would grow weak and sickly, and eventually you would die.

Jesus—The Bread of Life

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this Bread, he will live forever."

Jesus—the Bread of Life—is both God and Man. God Himself came to earth in a human body. He was born a Baby in Bethlehem, He grew through childhood (just like you are!) and He became a Man. He began to preach and teach about the kingdom of God, and He gathered students (disciples) to follow and learn from Him. He was betrayed and crucified. He died on the cross for the sin of the world, and He was buried. The third day, He rose again from the dead and went back to heaven to be with His Father.

But Jesus didn't BEGIN when He was born in Bethlehem. He didn't BEGIN when He started to grow as a tiny Baby in Mary's womb. Jesus has lived forever, and He was with the Father from eternity, FOREVER AND FOREVER.

Jesus is the Word that was spoken at creation when God the Father made the world. Jesus is the Word that still keeps the planets spinning and the stars in place. Jesus is the Word that gives life, and through Him we live and move and breathe.

Jesus is the Word, the Bread of Life, the Living Bread that came down from heaven. Just like natural food keeps our bodies alive and growing, Jesus—the Bread of Life—keeps our souls alive and growing in faith. The Word gives life and strength and health.

Jesus said, "If anyone eats this Bread, he will live forever." We are given eternal FOREVER life when we trust in Jesus, when we believe in the Living Bread that came down from heaven.

Jesus taught His disciples that the kingdom of heaven would grow from a small, insignificant beginning to spread across the whole earth. Jesus said to them, “What is the kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it?”

First Jesus told a parable about the tiny mustard seed. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man planted in his field. This is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest of all the garden plants. It becomes a tree, and the birds of the air come and make their nests in its branches.”

Next Jesus told a parable about yeast. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven (yeast) which a woman took and mixed into three measures of flour, until the whole mixture was leavened (raised).”

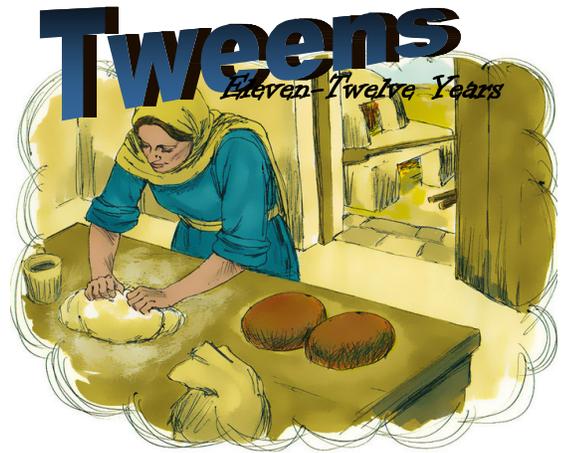
Jesus was showing His disciples with word pictures that the kingdom of heaven would spread across the earth.

The Kingdom of Heaven

After Jesus was raised from the dead, before He went back to heaven, Jesus told His disciples to teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He said they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel in Jerusalem (the holy city in Israel), in Judea (the area surrounding Jerusalem) and Samaria (the area surrounding Judea) and to “the uttermost part of the earth.”

The Gospel was to be preached everywhere and all the nations were to be taught about Jesus. And just like the tiny mustard seed that grew into a great tree and the yeast that spread through and raised the whole lump of dough, the kingdom of heaven would grow and increase until it reached the ends of the earth.

The teachings of Jesus were passed from the apostles to others, and they told others, and they told still others, and pastors and preachers and missionaries still tell others today, until the Good News of the kingdom reaches the ends of the earth.



What makes beautiful, fluffy loaves of bread? Yeast, of course!

Flour, sugar and a little yeast are mixed with liquid into a bread dough. Yeast is alive, and it feeds on the sugar in the dough; this process produces carbon dioxide (which also makes soda pop fizzy). As carbon dioxide is produced, the whole lump of bread dough expands or rises. A little bit of yeast causes all the dough to rise.

Just a Bit of Yeast

The Apostle Paul used yeast as an example in his letter to the Galatian Christians. False teachers—who claimed to be apostles—had come into the congregation saying that the Galatian Christians must be circumcised according to the Law. Christians know that following the Law doesn’t save them. Believers can only be saved by trusting in Jesus, by grace through faith, but false teachers can be very persuasive. The Galatian Christians were in danger of mixing Law and Gospel and the Apostle Paul wanted them to know that this is a very dangerous mixture.

He says, “Look, if you are circumcised (to fulfill the Law), Christ won’t be any profit to you at all. I testify that every person who is circumcised to fulfill the Law has to keep the WHOLE Law. You who would be made right by the Law, you are cut off from Christ! You have fallen from grace. In Christ, whether you are circumcised or not doesn’t matter; the only thing that matters is faith working through love. You were running your race well. Who stopped you from obeying the truth? This persuasion isn’t from the One who calls you.”

Then the Apostle Paul says, “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” A little bit of yeast makes all the dough rise. This means that a little bit of false teaching can ruin the whole teaching. It is important that Christians keep a clear distinction between Law and Gospel, so important that the Apostle says, “I wish that those who are troubling you were cut off.”

Martin Luther said:

“In philosophy a tiny error in the beginning is very great at the end. Thus in theology a tiny error overthrows the whole teaching.”

Then the Apostle writes these beautiful words: “Brothers, you were called to liberty, but don’t use liberty to serve your flesh. Instead, by love serve one another, for all the Law is fulfilled in one word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

What is *really going on* when your parents “go to communion”? The Sacrament of the Altar, sometimes called the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion, was started by Jesus Himself and continues to this day! This is how it came to be:

Before Jesus was crucified, on the very night that He was betrayed, He shared the Passover meal with His disciples. At this Last Supper, Jesus took the bread, blessed it and gave thanks. Then He broke the bread into pieces and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it; this is My Body. Do this to remember Me.” Then Jesus took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink some of this, all of you, for this is My Blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember Me.”

So... what is the connection between the Last Supper and Holy Communion? When Christian adults go to the altar, the pastor gives them a little wafer of bread (Jesus gave bread) and a tiny sip of wine (Jesus gave wine). The pastor repeats the words that Jesus said at the Last Supper.

And something special happens. The pastor speaks the words of Jesus and, because of the WORD (JESUS), the bread and wine ARE the Body and Blood of Jesus. In a mysterious way, the Word of God joins the bread and wine and they become a Sacrament. The bread is still bread (it doesn’t change in color or taste) but by the Word of God, it IS the Body of Christ. The wine is still wine (it doesn’t change in color or taste) but by the Word of God, it IS the Blood of Christ.

The Body and Blood of Jesus are *in, with and under* the bread and wine. The communicants really eat a little piece of the Body of Jesus. They drink a tiny sip of the Blood of Jesus. They follow the command of Jesus to remember His death. By faith, they receive the forgiveness of sins through His broken Body and shed Blood.



A **“sacrament”** is a sacred act commanded by God by which He promises grace to people while using something physical. The Sacrament of the Altar:

- ◆ was commanded by Christ
- ◆ promises forgiveness of sins
- ◆ uses physical bread and wine

Today, when adults celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar, they eat the Body of Jesus and drink His Blood, which are *in, with and under* the bread and wine, and they remember the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. His sinless Body was broken and His holy Blood was shed for the forgiveness of all of their sins. They receive the promise of grace, given by God Himself.

God does the work in the Sacrament of the Altar, giving Himself to people in bread and wine. This is a great mystery! Don’t worry if you can’t understand it. Even grownups may not always understand how the Body and Blood of Jesus can really be in bread and wine. Trust the words of Jesus when He said,

“This is My Body,”
and
“This is My Blood.”



This famous painting called **The Last Supper** by **Leonardo da Vinci** was started in about **1495**. That was over **FIVE HUNDRED** years ago!

Bread Search

- BAGEL
- BAGUETTE
- BARLEY
- BISCUIT
- FOCACCIA
- FRENCH
- ITALIAN
- PITA
- PUMPERNICKEL
- RIESKA
- ROLL
- RYE
- SOURDOUGH
- TORTILLA
- WHEAT
- WHITE

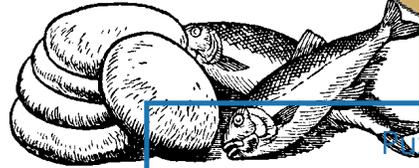
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 O S D J C S M E
 I V R C B I
 J J I R
 J A

How many loaves of bread are on this page?

No Knead Crusty French Bread

- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- 2 c. lukewarm water
- 1 T. sugar
- 4 c. sifted flour
- 2 tsp. salt

Soften yeast in water. Add sugar. Add the combined flour, salt and yeast mixture. Stir until it leaves the side. Let rise 2 hours until double. Punch down. Grease two 1-quart casseroles. Divide dough and form into two loaves. Let rise 45 minutes. Bake at 400° for about 40 minutes.



Puzzle Fun

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Answer Key: page 7

Who Said It...?

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.”
Mark 8:15

“Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?”
1 Kings 21:5

“Thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.”
2 Samuel 9:7

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.”
Genesis 3:19

“Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven.”
Amos 4:5

“Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.”
1 Kings 17:11

“Man shall not live by bread alone.”
Matthew 4:4

“Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand.”
1 Samuel 21:3

“If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat.”
Proverbs 25:21

Word Shapes

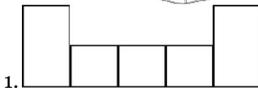
Write the words in the boxes below based on the shape of the letters.

barley
baskets
believe

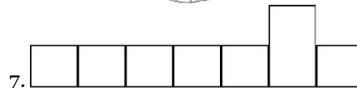
bread
crowd
eternal

fish
hungry
Jesus

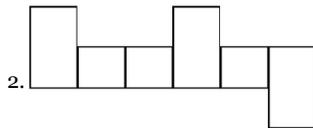
leftovers
life
miracle



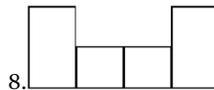
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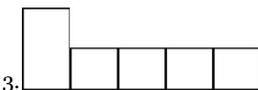
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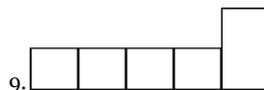
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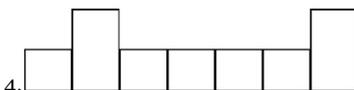
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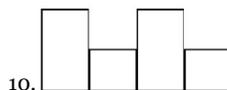
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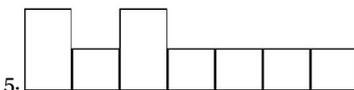
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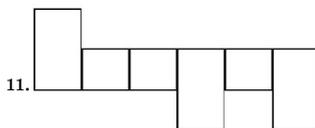
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10.



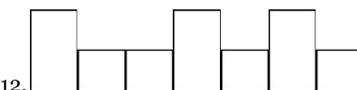
5.



11.



6.



12.



Five Loaves and Two Fish

Dear Father God,

Thank You for Jesus the Living Bread which You sent down from heaven for us. Thank You for His sacrifice in our place, for dying so that we can live forever. Thank You for the Sacrament of the Altar that Jesus began with His disciples, for His Body and Blood to strengthen our faith and to forgive our sin.

What a miracle that Jesus did when He fed many thousands of people with five loaves of bread and two little fish! Help us always to remember that You give daily bread. Let us pray for food and be thankful when You provide it.

Thank You for the apostles who spread the Good News of the kingdom and for all who have proclaimed it since that time. Thank You for our pastors and teachers who tell us about Jesus, the Bread of Life. Father, please let the truth always be preached in the Church and never let any false teaching creep in to deceive us.

Let us serve our neighbors with love and compassion, Father. Help us remember that by serving our neighbor we are serving You.

You are worthy to receive glory, honor and power, for You created all things, and for Your pleasure they were created.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

O Living Bread from Heaven

O Living Bread from heaven,
How hast Thou fed Thy guest!
The gifts Thou now hast given
Have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing,
O cup that heals our woes,
My heart, this gift possessing,
In thankful song o'erflows!



My Lord, Thou here hast led me
Within Thy holiest place,
And there Thyself hast fed me
With treasures of Thy grace;
And Thou hast freely given
What earth could never buy,
The Bread of Life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

Thou givest all I wanted,
The food can death destroy;
And Thou has freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
And Lord, I do not merit
The favor Thou hast shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Thy throne.

Lord, grant me that, thus strengthened
With heavenly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
I serve with holy fear;
And when Thou call'st my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Thy merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.
Johann Rist



Who Said It?
Jesus to disciples
Jezebel to King Ahab
David to Mephibosheth
God to Adam
Elijah to the widow of
Zarephath
Jesus to the devil
David to Ahimelech the
priest
King Solomon to his son
The Lord to Israel

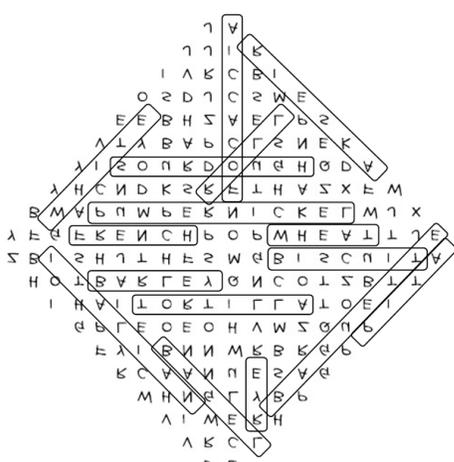
Word Shapes
1. bread
2. barley
3. Jesus
4. eternal
5. believe
6. leftovers
7. miracle
8. fish
9. crowd
10. life
11. hungry
12. baskets

Puzzle Answer Key

There are 12 loaves of bread on the puzzle page.

How Many Loaves?

Bread Search



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For Parents:

Jesus comes to us in the Word and Sacrament. In the proclamation of the Gospel, we hear the Good News that Jesus is FOR US. That He sacrificed His life FOR US. At the Altar, Jesus meets us and gives us His own Body and Blood to eat, and we are “strengthened in faith, love and a living hope of eternal life.” As we leave that blessed Altar and return to our daily lives, remember that we serve God and our neighbor, including those nearest to us—our families.

Vocation, Vocation, Vocation

In our vocation as parents, it is easy to become bogged down in the “daily grind” of mouths to feed, noses to wipe, bills to pay. We tend to worry and fret over tomorrow. We quickly forget that in serving our closest neighbors, we serve the Living God.

As mothers, when we feed and clothe our babies, wiping noses and changing diapers, we serve God and our neighbor. As we kiss away their tears and encourage through their fears, we serve God and our neighbor. When we do seemingly endless loads of laundry and make that 347th peanut butter and jelly sandwich, we serve God and our neighbor. Whether we bake all natural bread from homegrown flour or serve up the store-bought pre-sliced variety, we serve God and our neighbor.

As fathers, when we teach principles of daily living, discipline and morals, we serve God and our neighbor. When we drag ourselves to work after a night of a fussy baby or a fretting wife, we serve God and our neighbor. Whether we put on a suit and tie or strap on nailbags and a hardhat to earn “bread” by the sweat of our brows, we serve God and our neighbor.

We give of ourselves to our closest neighbors—our families—and we see in that a small example of the sacrifice of Jesus FOR US. We never will give our own flesh to our children to eat, but we may give our blood, sweat and tears to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We sacrifice for their well-being and we teach them of Jesus, the Living Bread who came down from heaven FOR US.

