



PRAY

Photo: Mwangi Kirubi

Dramatic Reading

JOHN 6:1-15

Narrator: Jesus made his way to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. As he walked, a large crowd pursued him, hoping to see new signs and miracles; his healings of the sick and lame were garnering great attention. Jesus went up a mountain and found a place to sit down and teach. His disciples gathered around. The celebration of the Passover, one of the principal Jewish feasts, would take place soon. But when Jesus looked up, he could see an immense crowd coming toward him. Jesus approached Philip.

Jesus: Where is a place to buy bread so these people may eat?

Narrator: Jesus knew what he was planning to do, but he asked Philip nonetheless. He had something to teach, and it started with a test.

Philip: I could work for more than half a year and still not have the money to buy enough bread to give each person a very small piece.

Narrator: Andrew, the disciple who was Simon Peter's brother, spoke up.

Andrew: I met a young boy in the crowd carrying five barley loaves and two fish, but that is practically useless in feeding a crowd this large.

Jesus: Tell the people to sit down.

Narrator: They all sat together on a large grassy area. Those counting the people reported approximately 5,000 men—not counting the women and children—sitting in the crowd. Jesus picked up the bread, gave thanks to God, and passed it to everyone. He repeated this ritual with the fish. Men, women, and children all ate to their heart's content. When the people had all they could eat, he told the disciples to gather the leftovers.

Jesus: Go and collect the leftovers, so we are not wasteful.

Narrator: They filled 12 baskets with fragments of the five barley loaves. After witnessing the sign-miracle that Jesus did, the people stirred in conversation. But Jesus sensed that the people were planning to mount a revolution against Israel's Roman occupiers and make him king, so he withdrew further up the mountain by himself.