"JESUS HOSTS A THANKSGIVING DINNER"

November 18, 2026/ **GATHER & GROW Bible Study**/ Dr. Chris Williamson

Opening Thought: When you think of someone who has the spiritual gift of hospitality and who loves to host people, who comes to mind? What made that person a good host?

When it comes to our faith, **Jesus is the ultimate host.**

- In Jewish culture, whenever you invited someone to have dinner with you, it was a sign of acceptance.
- Throughout scripture, God invites us to eat with Him because He accepts us as His own.
- **See Psalm 23:5; Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:15; Revelation 19:9**

As we prepare for **Thanksgiving Day** next week, many of us have invited family and friends to join us, or we've been invited to join others. Some of us have even received more invitations than we can accept, or more RSVPs than we can handle! Our study seeks to place us into a gospel story that highlights Jesus as **"The Host of A Thanksgiving Dinner."**

The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 is found in all 4 gospel accounts: Matthew 14:14-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, and John 6:1 – 5. This evening, we will focus on John's version of the story. **See John 6:1-15 (NIV).**

Question: When you host an event, what do you do to prepare for your guests? How do you set the atmosphere?

The Invitation:

Jesus invites His guests in to be with Him. He invites all kinds of people and from every walk of life. He set a wide table, an inclusive table, and an abundant table. When we come in, Jesus' response is, "I'm so glad you're here. I've saved a seat for you."

The Menu:

Why bread and fish?_____

_____

What is the symbolism?

- **The Bread =** _____
- **The Fish =** _____

Question: What is our spiritual role to make Jesus “palatable” to believers and unbelievers alike?

_____

_____

12 Leftover baskets:

- A Few Insights

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Conclusion: Jesus set **the stage for the miraculous** by pushing the disciples to recognize that the situation they were in was impossible to solve through human effort alone. Jesus prepared them to witness the supernatural feeding of the 5,000—pointing forward to His identity as the true **"Bread of Life" (John 6:35)**.

Jesus proved to be a **Social Justice advocate** by taking care of His guests' physical and spiritual needs.

Ordinary people were a part of the miracle of feeding Jesus’ guests for Thanksgiving. The lad who shared his lunch and the one who made his lunch received no glory.

Final Thought: **Praise God! Jesus invites us to eat with Him!**

Revelation 3:20, *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.”*

If you’ve accepted Jesus’ invitation to eat with Him, what would you write to Him in your Thank You card?