

## What's the Word?

Dear Paul,

It's been quite a day. As you know, Jesus of Nazareth has been preaching in the area around our town. Today we followed him and his disciples in order to see for ourselves how he is healing lepers and bringing sight back to the blind. Before we left, I packed a small meal for my father and me, never dreaming it would play such a big part in the day's events.

People kept joining us as we followed Jesus up into the mountains. There must have been thousands of us! Imagine my surprise when Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, saw me unpacking our food and asked me to follow him. He took me right to Jesus, who asked if I would be willing to share our food with the rest of the people. I couldn't imagine how such a meager meal of five loaves of bread and two fish would stretch far enough to feed a huge crowd. "Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them..." (John 6:11) I know you will find this hard to believe, but the food never ran out. Not only that, but when everyone was finished, the disciples collected all that was left over. It filled twelve baskets!

I will remember this day for the rest of my life. It wasn't just that Jesus fed all of us; it was that he cared so much about our needs. In a way, I felt I was fed by Jesus' words too. Does that make sense?

Your friend,

Sam

**Reflect** on the last part of Sam's letter. What did he mean?

**Read** John 6:1–15 after reading the letter. Compare this account of the feeding of the multitudes with the accounts in the other three gospels (Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:34–44; Luke 9:10–17). What is the same in each account? What is different?