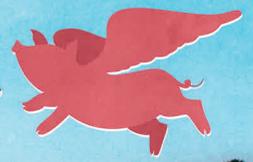




GOING DEEPER: WHEN PIGS FLY



MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF JOHN (WEEK 1 OF 4)

(JOHN 6:1-14) JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

In his Gospel account of Jesus' life, John records six miracles before Jesus' death and resurrection: Turning water into wine (chp 2); Healing of the Official's son (chp 4); Healing at the pool of Bethesda (chp 5); Feeding of the 5,000 (chp 6); Walking on water (chp 6); Healing of the blind man (chp 9); and Raising of Lazarus (chp 11). The first miracle of the four that we will look at in the next month – the feeding of the multitudes – is the only one recorded in all four Gospels. While the three other Gospel writers use the Greek word "dunamis" to emphasize the miracles' "powerful" aspects, John chooses the word "semeion" to emphasize that they are "signs."

- 1) What are miracles? What miracles can you think of that occur today? (Psalm 139:13-16) Are any of today's miracles comparable to those in John's Gospel?
- 2) (John 20:30-31) How do miraculous signs connect with John's purpose for writing this Gospel? How can a study of these "signs" be meaningful?
- 3) What do we want from Jesus? What *should* we want from Him? Should we want Jesus to provide mostly for physical needs, or our spiritual and eternal needs? How do we find this answer?
- 4) This miracle seems to emphasize that Jesus provided food in a desolate place for up to 20,000 people. Was this Jesus' intent? (John 6:14-15, 25-27). Why did Jesus withdraw?
- 5) What need does Jesus fill by claiming, "I am the bread of life"? (John 6:47-51) Do our physical lives matter to Jesus? To what extent does Jesus provide for our physical needs in order to "give us this day our daily bread?" (John 6:11-13)
- 6) Jesus gave these signs for us to "believe" so we may have "life." How does the feeding of the 5,000 demonstrate the "life" God intends for us and how He wants us to believe?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father: As we study your Word, let our goal be nothing more than your goal for us: to "believe" and to have "life" in you. Thank you for sending Jesus as the "bread of life" to provide for our physical and spiritual needs in full. Help us become a sign that people can look to in order to see Jesus. Amen.