

How Feeding the 5000 *Really* Happened

A Covid-safe drama based (very loosely) on John 6:1-13

You can either get everyone together in a real zoom meeting (try to have Jesus in the middle of the screen) and record the session, or people can pre-record their parts individually and you can edit the clips together. You can have the clips one after another, or (if you are clever like that) use a screen mosaic app to make it look like a zoom meeting.

If you are meeting in person, you can have the cast suitably distanced around the room.

Cast

	Props	Suggested costume	
•	Jesus	Centre stage / screen	Leather jacket
•	Andrew	'ding dong' sound effect	Waistcoat
•	Luke	snacks	Jacket and tie
•	James	snacks	Baseball cap on sideways
•	John	phone	Baseball cap on other sideways
•	Matthew	snacks and calculator	Glasses
•	Peter	large armful of snacks	Bandana and sunglasses
•	Philip		Braces
•	Thomas		Cardigan

All the parts can be played by one person with different accessories and backgrounds, or by nine different people.

No-one needs to learn the script, because it is quite normal for people to look away from the screen and shuffle papers while on zoom.

The 'All' parts should be said by everyone who is on screen/stage at the time. The words are only suggestions; people can make up their own lines similar to those given.

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Jesus [enters] Any one here yet? Andrew?

Andr [enters] Here boss.

Jesus Where's your brother?

Andr Peter? Oh, he'll be along soon. He's just getting some snacks.

James [enters] Did someone say snacks? That's a great idea. Back in a minute. [exits and re-enters shortly]

John [enters] Get some for me while you're there.

Jesus James and John – honestly do you two ever stop eating? What about Matthew and Luke?

Matt [enters] Yup. Got my snacks right here!

Luke [enters] Me too. Hi JC. Hi everyone.

Phil [enters] Oh, were we supposed to bring snacks?

Jesus Hi Phillip, good to see you.

Thom [enters very close to camera] Ummm, hello? Hello?

Jesus Hi Thomas.

Thom I'm not sure I'm doing this right. Can you see me OK?

Jesus Yes, you're fine. Maybe back just a little. Great.
Who's still missing? Oh yes, Peter. Are you there Peter? We can't see you.

Peter [enters with large armful of snacks, mouthing silently] *Sorry I'm late. I was just getting some snacks*

Luke Peter, you're on mute.

Peter [mouthing emphatically] *Sorry I'm late. I was just getting some snacks*

James Turn your mic on, Peter.

Peter [mouthing and miming wildly] *Sorry I'm late. I was just getting some snacks*

Matt Peter, we can't hear you. Click the button at the bottom of the screen.

Peter Can you hear me now? Sorry I'm late. I was just getting some ...

All ... snacks! We know!

[all settle down, adjust lighting, screens etc]

Jesus OK. Is everyone settled?

Phil Er, Jesus?

Jesus Yes Philip, what can I do for you?

Phil Well, snacks are nice and all, but it's getting late. Shouldn't we be having a proper meal?

Jesus That's a great idea Philip. What do you think we should have?

Phil How about pizza?

All Oh yes! / Great idea! / I'm in. / Sure, why not?

Matt Pizza! Good suggestion. [*uses calculator*] We can easily divide that between us, with equivalent fractions for each. I can calculate the right angle and find the area and circumference, then divide by pi to get ...

Luke Pie? I thought we were having pizza?

Matt Not that sort of pie. Pi, like with circles. Three and a bit, you know?

Luke Oh yeah. [*under breath*] Huh, mathematicians.

Matt I calculate that five large pizzas will feed us all amply. Who's going to order?

John Hold on! We haven't decided on the toppings yet. I like Hawaiian.

James Hawaiian? No chance. You're not getting me in a grass skirt!

Andr Eew! I don't need that picture in my head!

John OK, OK. Not Hawaiian. How about pepperoni?

All Oh yes / I like pepperoni / sounds good to me / that's fine

Thom Umm, I'm not sure about pepperoni.

John What's the problem, Thomas?

Thom Well, it's ... er ... just that we're Jewish, right?

John Yes, and?

Thom And pepperoni is made with pork.

John Ah, right. Good point. Not pepperoni then. We could have that one with olives and anchovies – very Biblical!

Jesus Sorry. I know my dad said all creation was good, but I don't think he meant to include anchovies in that.

Peter What about meat feast? We can ask them to hold the pepperoni.

Matt I'm vegetarian.

Peter OK, no meat. Roasted Mediterranean vegetables?

Phil I'm meatitarian.

Peter What? Is that even a thing?
OK, so no meat topping, no veggie topping. Plain Margarita then. Just cheese and tomato. Everyone OK with that?

Andr I can't have cheese. It's the lactose. Brings me out in a rash all over my ...

Peter We don't need to know thank you, Andrew.
OK, OK. Not Hawaiian, no pork, no anchovies, no meat, no veg, no cheese. That leaves us with ... bread and tomato.

John Would this be a bad time to remind you that I'm gluten-intolerant?

Peter [*losing it slightly*] We'll get the special crust. With just tomatoes on it. Everyone happy?

Luke Ahem.

Peter [*glaring*] What?

Luke I hate to point it out, but ...

Peter But you're going to anyway.

Luke Tomatoes don't grow round here. Not yet. They come from South America, and won't cross the Atlantic until the mid 1500s. And our pizza will definitely be cold by then.

James Soooooo, no tomatoes either?

Luke Sorry.

[*bing bong*]

Andr Ooh, that'll be my home delivery, back in a minute. [*exits*]

James So all we can agree on is plain bread? Sometimes you lot really stretch the 'love your neighbour' thing. John, order five bread. And some cola.

All I like cherry cola / can we have sugar free / what brand is it? / I'd rather have tango

James Don't start!

[awkward silence while John places order on phone]

Andr *[enters]* Sorry about that. Just having some fish delivered for tonight's supper. Couple of nice haddock. Would go nicely with some bread, don't you think?

[everyone looks at Andrew, nodding and licking lips]

Andr What?

Thom Umm, Jesus?

Jesus Yes, Thomas?

Thom I don't know if you've noticed, but there's quite a lot of people in the waiting room wanting to join our meeting. About 5000 of them. I think they heard about the pizza.

Phil What? How would we feed so many with only five bread and two fish? There's nowhere near enough for all those people! What are we going to do?

Jesus Leave it with me, lads. Leave it with me.