

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**JOHN 6****John 6**

John six begins with the Lord Jesus around the Sea of Galilee, healing those who were diseased and performing other miracles. Following the narrative of the gospels, the events of John six probably happened approximately six months after the events at the end of John five. Jesus "went over the Sea of Tiberias." This phrase, "Sea of Tiberias," is another name for the "Sea of Galilee." The Hebrew word for "Sea" is "Yam," and this can refer to the Mediterranean, salt water, or a freshwater body of water such as a lake. Such is the case with the Sea of Tiberias/Galilee.

In Hebrew, the name for the Sea of Galilee is "Kinneret" from the word "Kinor," which means "harp." The Lord Jesus would have referred to this body of water as "Yam Kinneret" or "Harp Lake." The reason for this designation can be seen if you see a map in your Bible of this body of water from above. It is formed in the shape of an ancient harp. It is a freshwater lake, the lowest freshwater lake on the earth. It is approximately seven hundred feet below the level of the Mediterranean Sea. The lake has almost thirty varieties of fish of different sizes. The most common species is the freshwater sardine. This was true then as now. The fishing was done by a net or along the shoreline with a seine.

The lake is called the Sea of Tiberias in John six because it was named after the city of Tiberias, which was founded by the son of Herod the Great to honor the Roman Caesar, Emperor Tiberias. Herod's son was

called Herod Antipas, whom Jesus called "that fox," and was the person who cut off the head of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. If you might have forgotten, Herod was a family name; like your family name, Antipas was his "given" name. When Jesus asked about feeding the people, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, **"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish..."** (v.9) The "small" fish was more than likely two freshwater sardines. The fish would have been salted to keep it from spoiling. The boy had a great lunch for a boy, but not to feed 5000 people. But that is where Jesus took the opportunity with the coming Passover (v.4) to remind the people of God's promise of provision as He provided "manna" in the wilderness journey, but also spiritual truth about the Messiah. This sign would cause many who witnessed this to begin to say, **"This truly is the prophet who is to come into the world."** (v.14) This is a Messianic reference from the lips of Moses in his farewell address on the plains of Moab, **"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him... 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him."** (Deuteronomy 18:15,18)

This great miracle of Jesus was one of the key miracles of all those He performed while on earth to show that, indeed, He was the Messiah. In this context, the very fulfillment of the Manna, God's provision, for the physical life of His people.

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to trust You every day for my provision, "daily bread." Also, Lord, please help me to share who You are with others, the very "Bread of Life sent down from heaven." Amen