

## **Storms And Picnics - Introduction and Information**

Welcome to this service series, "Storms and Picnics"!

In these services we focus on the 6th Chapter of John's Gospel which has:

- Jesus taking a young boy's picnic to feed the crowd;
- the disciples impatiently and impetuously taking off on an evening journey across the lake and ending up terrified by a storm which Jesus calms after walking across the water towards them;
- long conversations about what the sign (miracle) of the feeding may mean and how Jesus is the Bread of life.

We hope you'll find these services helpful. They are intended as a gift ready to be used as they are with just a couple of decisions.

**Each week's service follows the same pattern** with the same wording for prayers to encourage familiarity and a greater depth of engagement. It would be great if churches, worship leaders and preachers could follow this through the series. A copy of the congregation prayer & hymn sheet will be put on this website so that you can print your own. The same sheet can be used each week.

At the end of each service it is hoped that a loaf of bread will be broken and shared as a symbol of God's feeding and equipping us for our discipleship. This should happen during the blessing. Church stewards and those leading worship should agree who will provide the bread.

Each service links with an image from the Methodist Modern Art Collection. It is important that worshippers can see the art works as they worship. Images can be downloaded at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/artcollection/index.htm>

### **The decisions to be made are:**

- Whether to project the picture or to print copies for the congregation - your worship will be enhanced by projection
- Whether or not to have discussion during 'time to reflect'
- Whether you are using flowers or candles for the prayers of thanksgiving
- For each service the church will need to arrange:
  - that each worshipper can see the image
  - that there are sufficient copies of the prayer & hymn words to be used (these can be reused each week)
  - that a bowl of water is available set at the front of the church with either candles or flowers to float in it
  - that there is a loaf of bread to be broken and shared during the blessing

Wishing you blessing and fun as we chew on God's word together!