

READY STEADY COOK

By Rod

Based on the feeding of the 5000 (cf John 6 vv 1 – 13, Matthew 14 vv 13 – 21, Luke 9 vv 10 – 17 and Mark 6 vv 32 – 44).

CAST

Announcer

Jesus Davidson, the host of the show
Andrew, a top chef
Philip, another top chef
Johnny, a young lad – could be played as a Geordie

Announcer Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Ready Steady Cook. And please get ready, get steady to welcome your host for this evening, Jesus Davidson. *[Enter Jesus flanked by Andrew and Philip]*

Jesus Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. We have a very special programme for you today. Can I begin by introducing our two top chefs. First of all, in the red kitchen we have Andrew Johnson.

Andrew Good evening.

Jesus What type of cooking do you specialise in, Andrew?

Andrew Well I'm from Galilee so I deal mainly with fish.

Jesus Excellent. And in the green kitchen we have Philip Scoffield.

Philip Hello everybody.

Jesus And how would you describe your cooking, Philip?

Philip I'm a down to earth sort of guy and that's the way I cook. Good straightforward sort of recipes.

Jesus Well, there we have our chefs for tonight. The rules of the competition are simple. In a moment a member of the public will bring up a selection of food. The chefs then suggest their way of preparing it. You, the audience then decide which delicious dish you would prefer to partake of. So could we have this week's offering?
[Enter Johnny carrying supermarket bag]
Hello, Johnny.

Johnny Hello, Jesus.

Jesus What have you got for us in your bag?

Johnny *[Tipping out contents of bag on to table – 5 loaves and 2 fish]* Five loaves and two fish.

Jesus That looks magnificent.

Andrew Where did you get the fish, Johnny?

Johnny It was caught this morning in the Sea of Galilee.

Philip How about the bread? Is it fresh?

Johnny Baked this morning by my dad. He's a great baker is our dad.

Jesus Thank you very much, Johnny. So, chefs, what ideas do you have?

Andrew I think I'll go for 'Poisson au Pain'.

Jesus Sounds great. And how about you, Philip.

Philip I was thinking more along the lines of 'Pain au Poisson'.

Jesus Super, and what exactly is your 'Pain au Poisson'?

Philip What you do is take the bread and insert the fish inside it.

Jesus It sounds delicious. Can you beat that, Andrew? What is your 'Poisson au Pain'?

Andrew Well, basically, you take the fish first and then you place the bread around it.

Jesus OK, that's really making my mouth water. What do you think, Johnny?

Johnny Both sound great.

Jesus They do indeed. But just before I put it to the audience can I ask you two chefs one final question? Do you think you have enough ingredients to feed all the audience?

Andrew All the audience? You are joking?

Philip There must be nearly 5000 of them. And that's not counting women and children.

Andrew You should count women and children. My children never stop eating. They've got huge appetites – and the wife likes her grub as well.

Philip Jesus, the suggestion is utterly ridiculous. It would cost eight months wages to feed this lot. What we've got here will just about feed the four of us – no more.

Andrew If they want feeding I should send them away. There are plenty of good restaurants in(Add own locality). If they go now they should still be open.

Jesus But the idea is that you feed them.

Andrew Can't be done.

Philip No way, Jose. Not a chance.

Jesus Oh well, could I make a suggestion? If I break the bread into pieces you can then distribute it.

Andrew It's your programme.

Philip If you want to make a fool of yourself it's up to you.

[Jesus holds bread and fish aloft, gives silent thanks to God, breaks the bread into pieces and places into baskets. He gives the baskets to Andrew and Philip]

Jesus Here you are. Could you now give this out to the audience please?

Andrew If you say so. As I said, it's your programme. I suppose you can do what you like as long as you don't mind looking silly.
[Andrew and Philip start to leave towards audience muttering to each other. E.g. 'mad, completely mad' 'off his trolley', etc]

Jesus Oh, Andrew, Philip. You forgot these. *[He holds up 12 black plastic sacks]*

Philip What on earth are they for?

Jesus They are 12 refuse sacks. You'll need them to collect up the leftovers at the end.