

Jesus Feeds the 5000

Scripture:

"I thank God." 2
Timothy 1:3a, NIV

Bible Story:

Jesus feeds the 5000
people, John 6:5-13

Goal:

Learn that Jesus fed the
people. Learn to thank God for
Jesus.

As children arrive, check off their names on the attendance sheet. Children play until it's time to gather in the circle.

Play **Clean up song** and move to Circle Time.

Circle Time

Sing Welcome Song:

Greet each child individually

Where is ____ [name of child]? Where is ____ [name of child]?
Please stand up and wave, please stand up and wave
We're so glad to see you, we love you, we love you!

Repeat for each child in the circle.

Bible Story:

This time includes praying together!

Materials needed:

- play fishing poles
- Bible
- a basket
- a napkin
- fish cut out [laminated], one per child [only needed if we can't do the fish crackers due to allergies]
- cut out of bread [laminated], one per child [only needed if we can't use oyster crackers due to allergies]
- goldfish [real] and oyster crackers

Visuals OPTION: use the Big Picture Bible Story book

Give the children fishing poles and let them try to catch the fish. Challenge them to show you the smaller fish. Let them throw the fish back into the pool and say "splash!"

Describe what children do. For example, **Oliver is going fishing for a blue fish. Christina has two fish. One, two.**

Before story time, place fish and bread into a basket. Unfold a napkin and cover the contents of the basket. On top of the napkin, lay two fish-shaped crackers and five oyster crackers [representing the bread].

Do: Gently hold the Bible and say, **Look! This is the Bible! The Bible tells about Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus was a teacher. Lots and lots of people came to listen. But they got hungry.** Rub your tummy. Look into your open palms. **Hmmm. No food.** Look into each of the children's hands, each time saying, **"No food"**. They say, **Jesus, what will we do? Someone will share.** Show the basket. **Five pieces of bread. One, two, three, four, five. Two fish. One, two. Lots of people. Not lots of food. Jesus prayed.** Bow your head. **Thank you, God, for food.** Now lift the napkin to reveal the food underneath. **Look! Food for everyone!** Tell the children to hold out their hands. We are used pretend fish and bread to give to the kids due to allergies **[**if for some reason we either don't have gluten or celiac in these classes we can use edible goldfish and oyster crackers to share with the kids].** Say, **Jesus gave the people food. Thank you, God, for Jesus.**

Prayer

Ask the children to fold their hands and pray the words after you:

Thank you, God for Jesus. Amen.

CRAFT Activity

Materials needed:

- Template of fish, loaves and basket. Pre-cut for class use. Use the smaller fish/loaves/basket for the first hour craft activity.
- One piece of construction paper for each child
- One set of baskets, 5 loaves and 2 fish for each child
- Glue sticks
- Dot paints
- Paper bag for each child
- Template of fish, loaves and basket; pre-cut sets for these for each child [use the large size of template for the second hour craft activity]

First Hour Craft Activity:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper and a set of the fish and loaves and basket.
- Guide the children to glue the basket onto their paper and then add the fish and the loaves.
- Children can use dot paints to “paint” their picture to remind them how Jesus fed the people and provided for them.

Second hour Craft Activity:

- Give each child a paper bag
- Give each child a set of the fish and loaves [pre-cut].
- Let the children “pack” their lunch bag with the fish/loaves cutouts and talk about how we thank Jesus for giving us the food we need. Jesus does loves us so much. Thank you, Jesus, for the food you give us.
- Let the children know they can take home their “lunch bag” and tell their parents the story!

Circle Time

Creative Movement

Materials needed: none

Do: Encourage the children to copy you as you sing the following actions songs.

Stir the Soup (to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Pretend to stir as you sing.

**Stir, stir, stir, the soup,
Stir it in the pot.
Stir, stir, stir the soup,
Until it’s good and hot.**

Let children suggest other foods to replace the word “soup” as you continue.

Pop!

Seeds of corn	(Squat and pretend to be a seed.)
In the oven	
Getting very hot.	
Counting down,	
Counting down,	
4, 3, 2, 1, POP!	(Jump up.)

Discuss: Say, Jesus gave the people food. Thank you, God for Jesus.

Snack/Reading Time

Materials needed: picture books about today's lesson!

As the children are enjoying snack time, read and interact with the following books:

- My Thank You, Bible: Hungry Tummmies [page 55]
- Before I dream Bible Storybook: Supper for everyone [page 97]
- The Rhyme Bible Storybook: A tasty lunch [page 168]
- Eating the Alphabet [a book about all different kinds of food that God provides for us]

*As much as possible, wipe down the tables after snack time.

Extra Options

Materials needed:

- Playdough
- Fish shaped playdough cutters
- Fish template [to cut out construction paper fish]

Playdough Fun!

Enjoy using the fish shaped playdough cutters and playdough to continue talking with the children about the fish and how Jesus made sure the people had enough to eat. Ask the children if they've ever eaten fish or gone fishing!

Fish Game

There are 4 different colored fish taped on the walls in this room.

Have the children take baby fishy swim steps to the blue fish

Have the children take giant fishy swim steps to the green fish

Have the children walk backwards carefully to the red fish

Have the children take baby hops to the yellow fish

- Children may play, or you may use optional activities if they are listed in your lesson plan.
- When parents pick up children, check to make sure that the number on the child's sticker matches the number on the parent's sticker. Remind children to take home their activity from their bin and take-home paper for parents (and any bags they brought).
- Shepherds for the second hour arrive OR end of second service, wipe down tables/stack chairs 5 high