

Jesus Fed a Crowd

Matthew 14; Mark 6;
Luke 9; John 6

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

Story Point:

Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - Hidden Objects
- ☐ Starter Activity - Multiplying Loaves and Fishes



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Fishes and Loaves Memory Sort
- ☐ Group Activity - How Many Pieces?
- ☐ Group Activity - God Cares

SHEPHERD GUIDE

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only public miracle, other than Jesus' resurrection, recorded in all four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We should pause and ask, "Why this one? What about this miracle made it so unforgettable that no Gospel writer could leave it out?"

We can get a clue toward the importance of the miracle through its framing in the book of Luke. The miracle sits between two key questions: "Who is this?" (Luke 9:9), asked by a bewildered and disturbed King Herod, and "Who do you say that I am?" (Luke 9:20), asked by Jesus of His disciples immediately following the miracle.

Throughout the book of Luke, Jesus declares important truths during meals. From the dinners at Pharisees' houses to the last supper, meals in the book of Luke often carry significant meaning. And this miracle of feeding the 5,000 is no different. It's not just a moment of compassion—it's a moment of revelation and foreshadowing. It's the answer to the questions posed by Herod and Jesus Himself.

It's fitting that Luke ends the section with Peter's declaration: "You are the Christ of God." That's where every true encounter with Jesus should lead. The one who takes, blesses, breaks, and gives is not merely a miracle-worker. He is the Messiah—the one who fills us, sustains us, and saves us. And when we recognize Him as such, our only right response is the same as Peter's worship and confession declaring, "You are the Christ."

This week, lead kids to be ready to answer the question, "Who is Jesus," by recognizing Him as Messiah and Lord.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

*KNOW that Jesus is the Messiah and the Bread of life.

TRUST Jesus to provide for all their needs; including their greatest need – forgiveness and eternal life!

*LOOK for ways to serve God with what they have; however small it may seem.

As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children.

Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

WELCOME

Hidden Objects

- Activity page
- Markers
- Pencils

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Today we will learn about a time Jesus fed thousands of people with just a few pieces of food. If you could choose any food for Jesus to multiply, what would you choose?

Invite kids to complete the “Hidden Objects” activity page.

Today we will learn that Jesus miraculously fed thousands people with five loaves of bread and two fish! | am looking forward to sharing this story with you!



STARTER

Multiplying Loaves and Fishes

- Bread and Fishes strips
- Scissors
- Colored Pencils

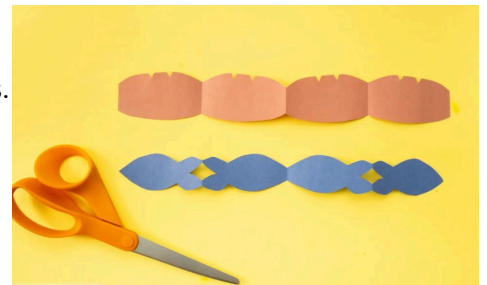
Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute a strip of a bread picture and a strip of a fish picture to each child along with a pair of scissors and colored pencils.

Direct kids to fold their bread and fish papers back and forth like an accordion until they have four sections on each paper, keeping the picture on top.

Then, have them use scissors to cut out their pictures. Warn them to be careful not to cut the side of the paper.

Then, encourage them to unfold their paper and see how one fish and one bread loaf turned into many. Give them time to color their loaves and fishes and add details (marks on the bread, eye and scales on the fish) to the additional pieces.

SAY: Today we will learn how Jesus used a boy's lunch of just five loaves of bread and two fish to feed a crowd of thousands. | am looking forward to sharing this story with you!





ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 3rd Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Fed a Crowd

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

What did Jesus teach when He was here on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him.

Open your Bible to Matthew 14; Mark 5; Luke 9; John 6.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Visualize the crowds: Explain that with the men, women, and children, this crowd could have consisted of 12,000 or more people. Do an online image search of “Wimbledon Stadium capacity” to help kids visualize what a crowd this size looks like.

Prophet search: When you get to the part of the story where the people say, “This really is the Prophet...” read Deut. 18:15 to explain that Moses predicted a special Prophet more than 1,000 years before this story took place. Explain that Jesus is the special Prophet the people had been waiting for!

Jesus had been teaching and healing people. He got into a boat with His disciples to go to a quiet place to rest.

But many people saw Jesus and His disciples leaving. Crowds ran ahead and met them when they reached the shore! Jesus looked at the large crowd of people and had compassion for them. He cared for them like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He taught them about God’s kingdom and healed those who were sick.

As the day went on, the disciples came to Jesus. “It’s getting late,” they said. “Send the people away so they can find food.”

Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.”

The disciples were surprised. They said, “We would have to work for months to buy enough food for everyone!”

Andrew, one of the disciples, said, “There’s a boy here with five small loaves of bread and two fish, but that’s not enough for so many people.”

Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups. Jesus took the loaves and fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks. Then He broke the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to the disciples to pass out.

Something miraculous happened. The bread and fish never ran out! The people—about 5,000 men plus women and children—ate as much as they wanted. When everyone was full, the disciples gathered 12 baskets full of leftovers.

The people saw this miracle and said, “This really is the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

Later, Jesus taught the crowd again. “Don’t work for food that will only last a short time,” He said. “Work for the food that lasts forever. I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. This miracle showed that He is God's Son. Jesus is the Bread of Life. He meets our greatest need—not just for food, but for forgiveness and eternal life with God.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process – however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

After a full day of teaching and meeting with people, Jesus and His disciples went to find a quiet place to rest, but the people were so eager to hear Jesus teach that a crowd ran ahead of Him. The Bible says Jesus had compassion on these people because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach, and as the day went on, the people were getting hungry. The disciples encouraged Jesus to send the crowd away so they could go find food. **What did Jesus say to the disciples?** [Allow responses.]

Jesus told the disciples to give the crowd something to eat. The disciples were confused and surprised. Jesus told them to see what food the people had with them. **How much food was given to Jesus to feed the crowd?** [Allow responses.] Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, prayed, and gave the food to His disciples to give to the people. **What happened then?** [Allow responses.] There was enough food for all the people to eat and be satisfied. Not only that, Jesus provided so much food from the loaves and fish that there were 12 whole baskets leftover!

This story reminds us that God always meets our needs and provides abundantly more than we could ask or imagine.

Today we saw that Jesus meets our greatest need—not just for food, but for forgiveness and eternal life with God. If you would like to learn more about trusting Jesus as your Savior, I would love to talk to you or you can talk to someone you know and trust!

Additional Questions:



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

What does this story teach me about God?

Jesus cares about people's physical and spiritual needs. He invites us to join Him in the work he is doing! We get to work alongside Jesus to care for people and show them the love of God.

What does this story teach me about myself?

I can give Jesus what I have and trust that He will use it for His glory and my good! Jesus isn't limited by my "not enough" because He is more than enough.

Pray together: *Thank You, Lord, for always being faithful to provide everything we need and for meeting the most important need we have—salvation and eternal life with You. Help us share this good news with others. In Jesus' name, amen.*



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 25, Session 1" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Are there kids in the Bible?
- What is a way you can serve God with what you have?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Matthew 5:16

Key Passage Activity:

SAY: It's so important to hide God's Word in our hearts. Let's review our key passage together.

Divide the class into groups of 2 - 4. Give each group a set of fishes and loaves. Each one has a word from the key passage. Have them work together to put their verse in the correct order.

Fishes and Loaves Memory Sort

- Key Passage Poster
- Fishes and Loaves cut-outs with words from verse

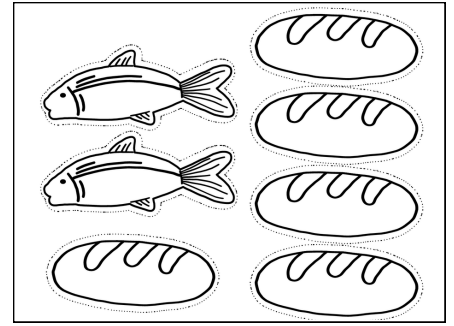


How Many Pieces?

- Paper loaves and fishes

Form kids into groups of two or three and distribute five paper loaves and two paper fish to each group.

Let the kids figure out how to tear the loaves and fish into the most possible pieces. Allow kids time to tear their loaves and fish into as many pieces as they are able to, then direct them to count their pieces. The team with the most pieces, wins.



Challenge them to think if there was any way they could possibly split it into 5,000 pieces.

Then, invite kids to open their Bibles to Philippians 4:19 and ask one kid to read the verse aloud to remind everyone that God meets all our needs.

SAY: — When Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish the people went away satisfied and there were still 12 baskets of leftover food. Only Jesus, God's Son, could have provided for the people in this way.



God Cares

- Emoji half-sheets
- Pencils
- Markers

Talk with the kids about how Jesus cares about people's needs. In our story today, the crowd had been with Jesus for a long time, and they were hungry. Jesus did not ignore that or tell them to sort themselves out. He saw their need and cared enough to act.

This is important. It shows that Jesus is not distant or uninterested in ordinary human needs. He notices tiredness, hunger, weakness, and worry. He is not only concerned with spiritual things in a narrow sense; He cares about the whole person. When the disciples saw a problem, they saw crowds and cost. Jesus saw people.

If Jesus cared about a hungry crowd in a lonely place, then He also cares about the practical needs in our lives. He is a kind Shepherd who notices when people are worn out and hungry, and He moves toward them with compassion.

Ask: How much do you think Jesus cares about your ordinary needs?

Pass out the Emoji half-sheet. Have them work with a partner to draw a different emoji in each circle to show how people might feel. Give some examples of: tired, hungry, happy.

Then have them circle the emoji that feels most like them today.

Remind the class that Jesus sees every feeling - and He cares!

EMOJI NEEDS BOARD

Draw a different emoji in each circle to show how people might feel.
e.g., tired · hungry · happy

Circle the emoji that feels most like you today

JESUS SEES EVERY FEELING—AND HE CARES