

LESSON 2 **JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows Compassion

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus shows compassion to the people in the crowd, healing those who are sick and feeding thousands from just five loaves of bread and two fish.

WORD OF WONDER: How great God is! We'll never completely understand him. —Job 36:26a

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: When has someone helped you because you were sad or hurting?
- Curiosity Questions
- Elementary Interactive Game: Saying and Doing
- Preteen Interactive Game: Match and Dash!
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Elementary Responding in Worship: The Way of Compassion
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Compassion in Action
- Blessing Your Kids

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows Compassion

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

If you've ever been around kids who are "hangry" at dinnertime, you know the urgency of getting food as quickly as possible. Once while with my kids at a baseball tournament, as dinnertime approached, we had been in the stands for hours. We were out of snacks, and there was no dinner in sight. The meltdowns were bound to start soon. Just then a friend showed up with hot dogs and chips. It felt like a miracle. It felt like compassion.

I can only imagine what the parents in the crowd must have felt after being with Jesus for hours as it was getting late. The "hangry" meltdowns were about to start. The desperation to get food ASAP was about to set in. Then something miraculous happened: Jesus provided. Even when He was grieving, Jesus cared for people. He cared for their spiritual and physical needs.

Read Matthew 14:13–21. Jesus had compassion for the people. He used something so small—five loaves and two fish—to accomplish something big and show His care, provision, and power.

Jesus didn't just feed the people's stomachs; His compassion fed their souls. And He can do that for us too. Think about ways Jesus has shown compassion for you and offer Him thanks. When your stomach rumbles and then is filled with food, offer thanks to Jesus. And never forget that He cares.

—Lynne Howard

Children's Ministry Leader and Wonder Ink Contributor

Wonder Ink Development Team

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000, which is amazing since the populations of the largest villages in Galilee numbered about 3,000 people. That number doesn't include the women and children, who, according to Jewish tradition, would have been counted separately from the men.

WHAT?

After hearing that Herod, the Roman ruler in Galilee, had ordered the execution of Jesus' friend and relative John the Baptist, Jesus withdrew to a solitary place. Still, the crowds followed Him. Jesus showed compassion on them, healing those who were sick and miraculously feeding thousands.

WHERE?

Bible scholars can't say with certainty where Jesus performed this miracle. Generally, this event is thought to have taken place near Bethsaida (Luke 9:10), which was across the Sea of Galilee from where Jesus had been previously (John 6:1) and was likely near the northern shore of the lake.

WHEN?

The book of Matthew follows a progression of the rise and rejection of Jesus as King. This particular miracle takes place just after the death of John the Baptist and before Jesus walks on water.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels! In this story, Jesus showed compassion to the crowd. Similarly, God didn't want us stuck in our sin, so He sent His Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise again so our sins could be forgiven. Our God is compassionate (Exodus 34:6)!

LESSON 2 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows Compassion

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WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Now That's a Miracle! Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: 5,000 Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the 5,000 Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: "When has someone helped you because you were sad or hurting?" Set out paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive ...

Welcome kids as they arrive by greeting them by name. Point out the Welcome Question on the screen or whiteboard. Read the question aloud for kids who may need help and encourage them to respond by sharing their answer with a friend or drawing a picture of their answer.

At your start time ...

Greet the group enthusiastically and invite several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question:

When has someone helped you because you were sad or hurting? Consider sharing a story from your own life of a time when someone extended kindness to you.

We've all experienced difficult things. We've been sad, hurt, scared, or sick. Maybe we've even been really, really hungry. Today we're going to hear about a time when Jesus saw people who were sick and hungry and did something to help them. But first, it's time to be curious!



Curiosity Questions

Ask the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I'm curious ...

- Which do you think is more powerful: the things you say or the things you do? Why?
- When have you shown kindness through your words? When have you shown kindness through your actions?

Elementary Interactive Game: Saying and Doing

SUPPLIES: balls (40 tennis or table tennis, or 12–20 playground), buckets or clean trash cans (4)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Saying and Doing Slide; 5,000 Wonder Truth Slide

Ahead of time, gather the tennis, table tennis, or playground balls. Place half the balls in one bucket or a clean trash can and the other half in another bucket or a clean trash can. You need more balls in each bucket than one person can carry on his own (approximately 20 tennis or table tennis balls, or 8–10 playground balls per bucket). Both buckets must have the same number and type of balls. Set two additional buckets or clean trash cans at the end of the room opposite of the ball buckets.

Display the Saying and Doing Slide and gather the kids. Help kids form two equal teams and invite them to gather at one end of the room. Give each team a bucket of balls and ask kids not to touch them yet. The two empty buckets should be at the opposite end of the room. **Let's play a game to get us started today! For this game, one person from your team will carry all the balls in your team's bucket from one side of the room to the other. Your team's carrier can carry as many balls as possible and place them in the empty bucket on the other side of the room. She will go back and forth until all the balls are in the bucket on the other side. She may not carry the bucket itself, put balls in her pockets, kick the balls, or carry them in her clothing. The first team whose carrier gets all the balls from one side of the room to the other wins. The rest of you can cheer on your carrier with your words only. Your team's carrier will be the kid whose birthday is closest to today.** Give teams time to figure out whose birthday is closest to today. Then start the game by saying, “Go!”



Encourage the kids not carrying balls to cheer for their teammates! The first team whose carrier gets all her team's balls into the opposite bucket wins.

Have kids gather with their teams again. Address the ball carriers directly: **That looked like a hard task! I bet you're tired! Can you think of anything that would have made your job easier?** Allow the carriers to share their ideas.

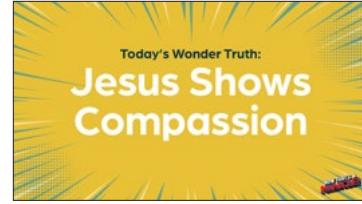
Those are great ideas! Let's play the game again. Only this time, everyone gets to help carry the balls. Challenge the two teams to carry all the balls in their buckets to the other side of the room. When you say, “Go,” everyone can help carry, and they don’t have to take turns. Again, they can’t put balls in their pockets or clothes, kick the balls, or move the buckets themselves. Whichever team gets all its balls into its bucket on the opposite side of the room first wins!

Make It Inclusive: Invite kids with physical limitations or disabilities to be full-time encouragers. They can shout encouragement during both rounds of the game. Remind them that helping people with our actions and our words is important!

When the game is finished, gather everyone together and ask:

- **What was the biggest difference between the two rounds?**
- **Which round of the game went faster? Why?**

Yes! The game was a lot easier and faster when everyone was able to help. Cheering others on and encouraging them with our words is important, but helping with our actions is often the most powerful thing we can do for others. We're going to hear today about a time when Jesus helped others not just through the words He said but through what He did. Display the 5,000 Wonder Truth Slide. When Jesus saw people who were sick and hungry, He felt deep sadness and understanding for them and did something to help them. We call this compassion. Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS SHOWS COMPASSION**.



Preteen Interactive Game: Match and Dash!

SUPPLIES: large boxes or bins (2), apples or other fruit (2), bandages (2), jackets or hoodies (2), umbrellas (2), bottles of sunscreen (2), bottles of lotion (2), water bottles (2), flashlights (2), maps or compasses (2), pillows (2), scissors (prep only), baskets or bowls (2)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Match and Dash! Slips Sheet (2 copies); Match and Dash! Slide; 5,000 Wonder Truth Slide

Allergy Caution: This activity includes possible food allergens!

Ahead of time, gather two of each of the following items: apples (or other fruit), bandages, jackets/hoodies, umbrellas, bottles of sunscreen, bottles of lotion, water bottles, flashlights, maps or compasses, pillows. Place one of each item in each of the large boxes or bins so that both containers have the same 10 items in them. Print two copies of the Match and Dash! Slips Sheet and cut apart the slips. Place one set of slips in each basket or bowl. Place the two large boxes or bins across the room from where the kids will gather.



Display the Match and Dash! Slide and gather the kids. Help kids form two equal teams and invite them to line up at the end of the room opposite of the large boxes or bins. Set a basket or bowl of Match and Dash! Slips in front of each team. **Let's play a relay game to get us thinking more about how we can help other people. Each team has a bin.** Point to the large bins or boxes on the other side of the room. **In your bin are 10 items that you could use to help a friend. Each team also has a basket of slips.** Point to the basket or bowl of slips in front of each team. **On the slips are 10 different situations that a friend might be in. Each person on your team will take turns pulling a slip, reading the situation, running to your bin, finding the item that could help your friend in that situation, and running it back to your team.** Then the next person in line will go. Once your team has matched all the slips and objects, I will check them to make sure the matches are correct. Whoever successfully matches all the slips and objects first wins!



Once kids are ready, say, "Go!" and cheer for them as they match and dash! Once each team finishes, check that the teams correctly matched their slips and objects. Here's a list of the pairs for your reference: Your friend is really hungry! (apple/fruit); Your friend fell and skinned her knee. Now she's bleeding! (bandage); Your friend is really cold! (jacket/hoodie); Your friend is outside in the rain! (umbrella); Your friend is outside on a hot, sunny day! (sunscreen); Your friend's skin is very dry! (lotion);

Your friend is really thirsty! (water bottle); Your friend can't see where he's going in the dark! (flashlight); Your friend is lost! (map or compass); Your friend is tired and sleepy! (pillow).

Leader Tip: If your group is large and there are more than 10 kids on each team, have kids pair up and run to and from their team's bin with a partner. If your group is small, some kids can go multiple times. If your group is very large, consider preparing additional sets of Match and Dash! Slips and bins of objects so that more than two teams can race.

Make It Inclusive: If any kids have limited mobility and are unable to dash to their team's bin, invite them to be the official "Slip Giver," who pulls Match and Dash! Slips from the basket and gives them to their teammates.

Congratulate the winning team, collect all the objects back into the bins, and gather the kids. **Great job finding items you could use to help a friend in each situation! We're going to hear today about a time when Jesus helped others not just through the words He said but through what He did.** Display the 5,000 Wonder Truth Slide. **When Jesus saw people who were sick and hungry, He felt deep sadness and understanding for them and did something to help them. We call this compassion. Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SHOWS COMPASSION.**



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: 5,000 Declaration Slide

Display the 5,000 Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You show me compassion, (Kids repeat.)

Your love never fails! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Repeat)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)
You show me compassion, (Repeat)
Your love never fails! (Repeat)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

LESSON 2 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows Compassion

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for seeing us and showing us compassion. We set aside distractions and busyness to be fully here, and we welcome Your Holy Spirit in this place. Please lead us. Guide us. Teach us. We are Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll hear how Jesus showed compassion for people who were sick and hungry by healing and feeding them. Let's thank Jesus for His compassion by singing praises to Him! Play songs from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.

In God's Big Story:
Jesus Feeds the 5,000
Matthew 14

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: 5,000 Title Slide; [Jesus Feeds the 5,000 God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the 5,000 Title Slide. Explain to kids that today's part of God's Big Story comes straight from God's Word, the Bible. They can find it in Matthew 14, which is at the beginning of the New Testament. Guide kids in locating the passage in their Bibles.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Read Matthew 14:13–21 and have kids follow along. Then do one or both of the following:

- Use the following Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Experience It! Script
- View the [Jesus Feeds the 5,000 God's Big Story Video](#)

LESSON 2 JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000 EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only); construction or tissue paper (multiple colors, 50 sheets total); large clear, shatterproof container with lid; paper (1 sheet per kid); writing utensils (1 per kid); paper cutter (optional, prep only); bell (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Clues Sheet, Bell Sound Effect

Ahead of time, print the Clues Sheet and cut apart the clues. Cut 50 sheets of construction or tissue paper (of varying colors) into 100 small pieces each. (If you have a paper cutter, use it to make 10 horizontal and 10 vertical cuts per sheet, resulting in 100 small pieces from each sheet. Otherwise, use scissors to make the cuts.) You'll end up with 5,000 small pieces total. Place the 5,000 small pieces of paper in a large clear, shatterproof container with lid. Place the container in the front of the room where all the kids will see it. Prepare to play the Bell Sound Effect or ring a bell at the designated places in the script.



Leader Tip: Capture kids' attention even more by using 5,000 pieces of candy rather than paper! Fill a one-gallon clear container with hard-shelled chocolate candies and challenge kids to guess how many candies are in the jar. (Approximately 5,000 candies will fill a one-gallon container.) At the end of the story, give each kid a handful of candy! (Just be aware of food allergies and sensitivities!)

Hand each kid a sheet of paper and a writing utensil. Then hold up the container of paper pieces for kids to see and give it a gentle shake. **Whoa! Look at all the paper! Do you think you could guess how many pieces of paper are in here?** (Don't reveal the answer!)

A miracle is an amazing sign that God is at work! And today we're going to hear from God's big story about a time when Jesus did an incredible miracle. Let's play a game as I tell the story. At different points in the story, we'll get clues to help us figure out how many pieces of paper are in the container. Listen carefully for a bell. When you hear it ring, it'll be time for a clue!

Right now, take a moment to write your best guess as to how many papers are in this container! Then we'll compare your guesses at the end. Allow time for kids to write their guesses on their paper. When finished, they can set their paper and writing utensils in front of them.

Jesus had a friend and relative who was called John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a preacher sent by God to prepare the people for Jesus and His message. John told the people about how God would make the world new and those who followed Jesus would get be a part of it! John baptized people, or submerged them in water, as a symbol that they were turning from their old ways and God was washing them clean of sin, which is the wrong things they say and do. John even baptized Jesus (even though He had never sinned)!

Play the Bell Sound Effect or ring a bell to indicate it's time for the first clue. **It's time for our first clue! Let's take a look.**

Leader Tip: For Preteens. Invite three preteens in your group to come up and read the three clues during the story.

Read Clue 1: **It takes this many miles to go from one coast of the United States to the other and back!**

Hmm ... does anyone know the answer to this? If you do, keep it to yourself, but write it on your paper! If you don't know the answer, just write you best guess. Pause for kids to do this. OK! Let's keep going in our story.

During the time Jesus was on earth, a man named King Herod ruled Israel for the Roman Empire. Herod was angry at John the Baptist for preaching God's truth, so when Herod had the chance, he ordered John to be killed.

Jesus was heartbroken when He found out John had been killed. Jesus wanted to be alone to grieve so He went on a boat to a quiet place. However, many people found out where Jesus was, and they followed Him on foot. By the time Jesus reached the shore by boat, a large crowd had gathered.

Play the Bell Sound Effect or ring a bell to indicate it's time for the next clue.

Time for the next clue! Clue 2 says: The average person will use approximately this number of toilet paper rolls in their entire lifetime! Write your guess on your paper. Give kids time to think and write their guesses.

Let's keep going. **Even though Jesus was sad and wanted to be alone, He cared more about helping the people who had gathered to see Him. Jesus understood their hurts and sadness and showed compassion on them, healing those in the crowd who were sick.**

Evening came and people got hungry, but Jesus' closest followers—His disciples—realized that there was nothing to eat. They told Jesus to tell the crowds to leave so that they could buy their own food in town. Instead, Jesus told His disciples to feed the crowd. They were confused. "We only have five small loaves of bread and two fish," they told Him.

Play the Bell Sound Effect or ring a bell to indicate it's time for the final clue.

This is our last clue! Let's see if this is one you might know. Clue 3 says: This is the number of people Jesus fed in today's story (not including women and children)!

All three of the clues actually have the same answer. And it's approximately the same as the number of paper pieces in the container. Maybe you know this story and know the answer. Write it down if you know it! If not, that's OK. Write your best guess. Give kids a few seconds to write their answer.

If you guessed 5,000, then you're right! Hold up your answer for us to see!

There were about 5,000 men, plus women and children in the crowd. But remember—all they had was five small loaves of bread and two fish. That's not nearly enough to feed that many people! How was that ever going to be enough?

Jesus told the disciples to bring Him the little food they had and told everyone else to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five small loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, and thanked God for what He had provided. Then, Jesus tore the loaves into pieces and gave them to His disciples, who

then passed out the food to the people. Everyone ate until they were full! There was so much food that the disciples collected 12 large baskets of leftovers!

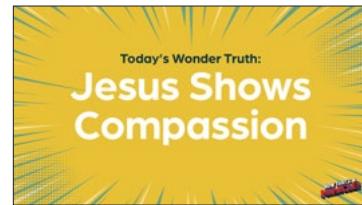
Even when Jesus was sad and grieving His friend's death, He noticed the people around Him and cared more about their needs than His own. Jesus showed concern for the sick and healed them. And when the people were hungry and His disciples weren't sure how they would be able to feed such a large crowd, Jesus fed them in a miraculous way—an amazing sign that God is at work! Jesus showed compassion to the people in the crowd that day, and He continues to show compassion to us today! Jesus shows compassion.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: 5,000 Wonder Truth Slide

Display the 5,000 Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SHOWS COMPASSION.** Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell about Jesus' life and ministry. The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle included in all four Gospels, so we know it was a very important event! In this story, Jesus showed compassion to the people in the crowd. Similarly, God didn't want us stuck in the pain of our sin—the wrong things we say and do—so He did something about it. He sent His Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise again so our sins could be forgiven. Our God is compassionate (Exodus 34:6)!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

Jesus was sad when He found out His relative, John the Baptist, had died. Is it surprising that Jesus became sad over things just like we do? Why or why not? Give kids time to think and share.

Think about Jesus' actions in this story. Consider brainstorming together everything Jesus did in today's story. **Thinking about everything Jesus did in the story, what action do you find most amazing?** Allow kids to share freely. Consider sharing your own answer to the question as well.

LESSON 2 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows Compassion

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

How great is God—beyond our understanding!

—Job 36:26a (NIV)

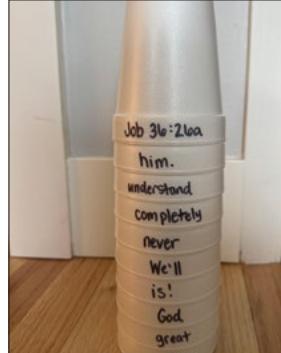
How great God is! We'll never completely understand him.

—Job 36:26a (NIV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, disposable foam cups (8 or 10 per small group), permanent marker (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide (optional), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, write the Word of Wonder on disposable foam cups, one word or the reference per cup. Turn the cups upside down, writing each word on the "lip" of the cup, very close to the bottom. If you don't do this, the words won't show when stacked. You will need a complete set of cups for each small group. (If using NIV, you'll need 10 cups per small group. If using NIV, you'll need 8 cups.) Mix up each set of cups so they're not in verse order.



Today in God's big story, Jesus showed compassion on the people who were sick and hungry and cared for them in a miraculous way! Our Word of Wonder for the Now That's a Miracle! series reminds us of God's power and greatness! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to Job 36:26a. If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#). Invite kids to read Job 36:26a several times together.

Now let's practice our Word of Wonder with a cup-stacking game! Invite kids to take turns seeing how quickly they can stack their cups in the correct order of the memory verse. Encourage kids stacking the cups to say the verse out loud while they are stacking. For groups with younger kids and for larger groups, invite kids to work in pairs. Those watching the cup-stackers can say the verse along with them! Continue until all kids have had a chance to stack the cups.

Elementary Questions

- **Why was Jesus sad in today's story?** (His friend and relative, John the Baptist, had died.)
- **What did Jesus try to do when He was sad?** (He went on a boat to a quiet place to try to be alone.)
- **What happened when Jesus tried to be alone? How did He respond?** (A large crowd gathered around Him. He showed compassion to them.)
- **Compassion is feeling deep sadness or understanding for someone else and doing something to help them. How did Jesus show compassion to the people in today's story?** (Jesus healed people who were sick and fed over 5,000 people with five small loaves of bread and two fish.)
- **How has God shown you compassion and helped you?**
- **Who can you show compassion to? What can you do this week to help this person?**

Jesus is a real person. He is both God and man, and He has feelings and emotions just as we do. Yet even when Jesus was sad, He showed compassion to others. Our God is compassionate, and our God loves us so much! Let's thank Him in prayer now.

Leader Tip: Pause after each question for kids to think and answer. Wait for them, even when the silence feels awkward. Trust that the Holy Spirit is working in the quiet!

Preteen Questions

- **Why was Jesus sad at the beginning of today's story?** (His friend and relative, John the Baptist, had died.)
- **What is compassion?** (If needed, remind kids of the definition introduced earlier in the lesson: Compassion is a feeling of deep sadness or understanding for someone else and doing something to help them.)
- **How did Jesus show compassion to the people in today's story?** (Jesus healed people who were sick and fed over 5,000 people with five small loaves of bread and two fish.)
- **Do you think it's hard to show compassion for others when you are hurting and sad? Why or why not?**
- **How has God shown you compassion?**
- **Think quietly about someone in your life who is sad or hurting. What can you do to show this person compassion?**

Jesus is a real person. He is both God and man, and He has feelings and emotions just as we do. Yet even when Jesus was sad, He showed compassion to others. Our God is compassionate, and our God loves us so much! Let's thank Him in prayer now.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share any prayer requests or praises they have. Encourage them to say "thank You" to Jesus for His love and compassion. Then ask for a volunteer to end the group time together in prayer, making sure to pray for all the requests shared.

LESSON 2 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Shows Compassion

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14

WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

Elementary Responding in Worship: The Way of Compassion

SUPPLIES: writing utensils, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Way of Compassion Sheet (1 per kid), The Way of Compassion Slide, [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of The Way of Compassion Sheet for each kid.

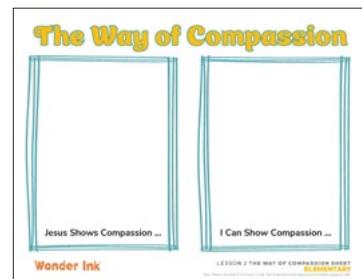
Display The Way of Compassion Slide and gather the kids. **Today we heard about a time when Jesus was very sad but still had compassion on those around Him. He loved the people who crowded around Him that day. And when they were sick and hungry, He stopped what He was doing to care for their needs.**

We see Jesus showing compassion to people throughout the Gospel books of the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). When are some other examples in the Bible of Jesus showing compassion to others?

Invite kids to brainstorm Bible stories. If they aren't sure where to start, remind them of passages from the Hanging Out with Jesus series, like Jesus seeking out Zacchaeus and Jesus healing the men who had leprosy.

Just like Jesus cared for the people in today's story, Jesus loves and sees you. When you're hurting or sad or scared, He feels deep sadness and understanding for you. He is with you and wants to help you. Jesus shows us compassion!

Set out writing and coloring utensils and give each kid a copy of The Way of Compassion Sheet. **Find the place on your sheet that says, "Jesus Shows Compassion."** Pause for kids to find this on their sheets. Help younger kids if needed. **I invite you to spend some time thinking about ways Jesus has shown compassion to others, including you!** Maybe He has answered your prayer, healed you from sickness, or helped you feel joy again after a sad time. **The most amazing act of compassion took place when Jesus died so that our sins—the wrong things we say and do—could be forgiven and we can be with God forever!** In the frame on the left side of your sheet, write your ideas or draw a picture of Jesus showing compassion.



Give kids several minutes to write and draw quietly. Consider quietly playing music from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#) during this time.

Now look at the right side of your sheet. Show kids the words, “I Can Show Compassion” on The Way of Compassion Sheet. **Now let’s spend time thinking about how we can walk with Jesus in the way of compassion by showing care to someone this week. Who do you know who is sad or going through a difficult time?** Pause for kids to think quietly. **What can you do to help or encourage them? Write or draw a picture of your idea in the frame on the right side of your sheet. If you can’t think of an idea right away, that’s OK! Ask the Holy Spirit to give you creative ideas! Then when you have an idea, write about it or draw a picture of it on your sheet.**

Again, allow several minutes for kids to write or draw quietly while music plays quietly in the background. Be available to help kids think of ways they can show compassion to someone in their life. When they’re finished, invite kids to share their ideas with the group.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Compassion in Action

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), writing utensils, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Compassion Book (1 per kid), Compassion in Action Slide, [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Compassion Book for each kid. (Print on both sides with the flip on the short edge.) Fold each sheet in half to create a small four-page book.

Display Compassion in Action Slide and gather the kids. **Today we heard about a time when Jesus was very sad but still had compassion on those around Him. He loved the people who crowded around Him that day. And when they were sick and hungry, He stopped what He had planned to do to care for their needs.**

We see Jesus showing compassion to people throughout the Gospel books of the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Let’s work together to remember other times in the Bible when Jesus showed compassion to others. Encourage kids to form small groups of 2–4 kids.

Give a Compassion Book to each kid and make sure everyone has a Bible. Set out writing and coloring utensils. Ask kids to write their name on the front cover of their Compassion Book. Then have them turn in their books to page two. Invite small groups to brainstorm stories in the Bible in which Jesus shows compassion. If they aren’t sure where to start, encourage them to turn to the first four books in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Give them a few ideas from the Hanging Out with Jesus series to get started, such as Jesus visiting Zacchaeus and healing the 10 men with leprosy. They can list the stories or draw quick stick figure drawings of each one. After a few minutes, invite groups to share their examples.

Jesus showed compassion to people in the Bible, but He also shows compassion to us! Maybe He has answered your prayer, healed you from sickness, or helped you feel joy again after a sad time. The most amazing act of compassion took place when Jesus died so that our sins—the wrong things we say and do—could be forgiven and we can be with God forever! On the same page in



your **Compassion Books**, I invite you to write or draw about one way Jesus has shown compassion to you. Give kids time to write and draw. Consider playing music from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#) during this time.

Now take a look at page three in your books. As followers of Jesus, we can show God's compassion to other people. Spend some time thinking about someone you know who is sad or going through a hard time. What is something you can do to show compassion to them this week? Write or draw your ideas in the box on page three. Allow time for kids to write and draw quietly. Play music quietly as they work.

Let's turn now to page four in your books. On it, you'll see a breath prayer. A breath prayer is a simple prayer we can repeat anytime and anywhere as we breathe in and out. We say the first part as we breathe in, and we say the second part as we breathe out. We can pray breath prayers silently or out loud. Let's say this one together now. Repeat this breath prayer several times with the kids:

Breathe In: Jesus, fill me ...

Breathe Out: with Your compassion.

Invite kids to share what they wrote or drew in their books. Then encourage them to look for opportunities to show the compassion of Jesus to people around them this week, assuring them that God gives us, His followers, His Holy Spirit to help!

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: 5,000 Blessing Slide

Display the 5,000 Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May we take comfort in Jesus, who shows compassion.

May you love how Jesus loves, and may the compassion of Jesus overflow through your actions!

