

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

Object Lesson: Count the People

Activity: Sharing Food

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Bread and Fish Toss

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!

Object Lesson: Count the People

SUPPLIES: people figurines (at least 10), toy food

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We're going to talk today about how Jesus helped a lot of people who were hungry.

What's the most people you've ever seen all together? Allow the kids to respond. Offer ideas such as a concert, church service, parade, or festival.

Show the kids the people figurines and count 10 people with them. Ask the kids what they think the people would like to eat. Let the kids take turns giving the toy food to the toy people figures.

We're going to hear a story today about a time when Jesus fed 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread. How many people do you think live in our town? Do you think it's more than 5,000 people? Allow the kids to respond. **There were a lot of people there with Jesus!**

Let the kids play with the people figures and play food. Let them pretend to make different meals for the people.

Activity: Sharing Food

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), toy food

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Sharing Food Sheet

Ahead of time, print the Sharing Food Sheet and cut apart the pictures. Set out some toy food and spread out the food pictures on the ground.

In God's big story today, we'll see how Jesus helped people who were hungry. Jesus showed compassion—that means kindness. Someone shared food and Jesus used it to do something great! Let's practice showing compassion to one another by sharing food. Invite the kids to choose toy food and food pictures. Then invite them to share it with someone else. When they give the food to someone else, they can say, "Jesus shows compassion."

You did a great job sharing and showing compassion by sharing food. Today we'll see how Jesus showed compassion to a big group of people.

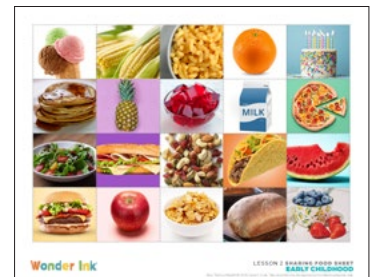
Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS SHOWS COMPASSION.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—Point up.

SHOWS—Hold arms extended out in front of you.

COMPASSION—Hug yourself with your arms.



Worship

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

Today we'll learn how Jesus shows compassion; He takes care of those He loves. Let's sing a song and thank God for how good He is to us!

Play songs from the [Now That's a Miracle! Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, toy food

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jesus Feeds The 5,000 God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus and a time when He did something really cool! Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what Jesus did.**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Jesus Feeds The 5,000 Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture for a visual depiction of the story as it's being told.

One day, a lot of people came to Jesus because they heard about some amazing things He was doing. More and more and more people came to see Him.

Jesus loved these people and took care of them. He healed people who were sick. Then His disciples got worried because it was almost time for dinner, and they didn't have enough food for everyone. There were over 5,000 people but only a tiny bit of food—five loaves of bread and two fish. Hold up a few pieces of toy food (bread and fish, if available).

What were they going to do? Jesus asked the disciples to bring Him the bread and fish. He thanked God for the food and then tore the bread into pieces. He gave it to the disciples to pass out to all the people. They had enough food to feed everyone! And leftovers! Pass the toy food to a kid and encourage her to pass it to another kid, and so forth.

Jesus healed the people of their sicknesses and performed an amazing miracle by feeding thousands of hungry people. Jesus showed compassion. Jesus shows compassion to us too!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Now That's a Miracle! Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#)

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Now That's a Miracle! series is Job 36:26a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Job 36:26a

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GREAT**—Put one arm straight up for each word.
- **GOD IS!**—Point up.
- **WE'LL NEVER**—Cross arms back and forth in front of you.
- **COMPLETELY**—Bring both arms down from above you to your sides.
- **UNDERSTAND**—Point to your head with both hands.
- **HIM.**—Point up.
- **JOB 36:26a**—Hold your hands together in front of you, palms open, as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Put your hands on your heart when you hear me say, “compassion.” Model and practice the action.

God, thank You for showing compassion (hands on heart) for us. You are so good to us. Help us remember to be thankful and remember to show compassion (hands on heart) to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Jesus saw the needs of the people, and He showed them compassion. May you always remember that God knows what you need, and He will show you compassion too. May God help us to show the love and compassion of Jesus to others!

Bread and Fish Toss

SUPPLIES: basket, crumpled sheets of brown and gray paper, real bread rolls (optional)

Set out a basket and crumpled sheets of brown and gray paper. Tell the kids to pretend the brown sheets of paper are bread and the gray paper is fish.

In God's big story today, we learned about how Jesus did something amazing by feeding a really big group of people with five loaves of bread and two fish! Jesus showed compassion for the people! We're going to toss pretend fish and bread into a basket to help us remember the story.

Let the kids toss the crumpled papers into the basket. For more fun, let them toss real bread rolls into a basket. (Be aware of food allergies. Toddlers may be tempted to taste the bread before tossing it!)