

Vacation Church School
Life of Christ #1

Lesson: Jesus Feeds 5000

Reference: Matthew 14:15-21

Mark 6:32-44

John 6:1-15

Memory Verse:

Give Thanks

Goals: By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

1. Know the story is from the Bible
2. Relate the events of the story.
3. Remember the memory verse

Vocabulary

1. Barley

Materials Needed:

Intro:

- Basket
- Dishcloth
- Five mini loaves-whole wheat bread made from frozen bread dough
- Two sardines(may substitute with goldfish, gummy Swedish fish)

Story:

- Pictures of Story

Optional Activity: Barley Loaves and Fish

- 1-2 loaves of whole wheat frozen bread dough
- Wash cloths
- Cookie sheet
- Small baskets
- Goldfish crackers

Optional Game: Wheel of Fortune

- Two Large poster board (one for the spinner and one for the gameboard)
- Scissors
- Paper Fastener-brad or grommet
- Ruler
- Colored Markers
- Questions

Optional Craft:

- Extra large sheets of construction paper
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Pattern for baskets of loaves and fish
- Crayons/markers
- Glue sticks
- Stronger glue

Prepare Ahead:

1. Introduction: Bake Mini loaves before class. Prepare basket of loaves and fish.
2. Optional Activity: Thaw loaves of whole wheat bread dough.
3. Optional Game:

Spinner-Draw a large circle on poster board. Divide the circle into 8-12 pie shaped pieces. Color the pie sections different colors with markers. Use black marker to write, “free turn”, “loose a turn”, “forfeit 10 points”, “gain 10 points”. Fill remaining spaces with different point amounts. Make a hole in the middle of the circle. Make an arrow out poster board, make sure it is narrow enough to read the point value. Punch a hole in the flat end of the arrow. Use paper fastener to attach the arrow to the circle.

Game board- (may substitute Whiteboard/Blackboard for the poster board) Print the alphabet on the bottom of the board. Above the alphabet, mark out the spaces for the hidden message. Create the hidden message from the memory verse for the day or use ideas from the story.
4. Optional Craft: *Unfolding baskets of Loaves and Fish* (If time is limited you may want to fold the papers or at least make the first fold.)
 - Make copies of baskets of loaves and fish pattern (Six per child, six for sample)
 - Measure and make a mark at approximately 2 ½” from the top of the sheet of extra large construction paper.(Standard construction paper won’t be long enough to make five folds) Fold the top of the paper to the mark. Continue folding accordion style till you have five equal folds. Cut off the rest of the unfolded paper.
 - Glue basket pattern to the top fold of the sheet of construction paper. Cut out the pattern beginning at the straight edge. Unfold accordion and glue remaining basket patterns in each fold. They will alternate between right side up and upside down.
 - Color

Introduction:

Soak up as much oil as possible from the Sardines, line basket with dish cloth, and put the Sardines in the basket with the mini bread loaves. Hold up the basket of food.

How many people do you think this lunch will feed?

Pause for answers.

One...maybe two. Would it be enough to feed a big group of people? Imagine if it were reunion time here in Phoenix, a time when about 200 people gather together, and for some reason we weren’t able to get any food. This little basket here was all we had to eat. Most of those people eat twice a day. Do you think that this basket of food would feed about 200 people? That would be a miracle wouldn’t it? Well the Bible, *hold up the bible*, tells about an even greater miracle than that. Let’s find out about it.

Story:

As Jesus went about Judea teaching the people about God and healing them, His fame began to spread. People followed Him wherever He went. Sometimes Jesus grew weary. One day Jesus and His disciples went to a desert place to rest and pray. A huge crowd followed Jesus there, 5,000 people. 5,000 people wanted Jesus to teach them and heal them of their infirmities. Jesus looked out at the great crowd that wanted so much to be with Him. His heart went out to them. Instead of resting He began to teach and heal them.

Show picture of Jesus and the crowd.

Morning turned to afternoon, yet people stayed. Evening came and still the crowd remained. "Send them home to get something to eat." The disciples told Jesus. "Don't send them away," Jesus said, "Give them something to eat." "But Master, we don't have enough money to go buy food for all these people!"

Picture of Jesus asking the disciples to find food in the crowd.

"Go into the crowd," Jesus said, "See who has brought food." The disciples went up and down through the throng of people. In that great crowd of 5,000 people, no one had any food. Except one young boy, whose mother had packed him a lunch for the day.

Picture of disciples with baskets of loaves and fish.

The boy gave his food to the disciples and they brought the basket of food back to Jesus. Only two pieces of fish and five tiny loaves of barley bread! Jesus gratefully accepted the food. "Tell the people to sit down in groups of 50 or 100." Jesus commanded His disciples.

Picture of Jesus praying over the food.

He gave thanks to God for the food they had been given. The disciples began to pass out the bread and the fish. A miraculous thing happened. No matter how often they passed the baskets there was still bread and fish in them! The food went through the whole crowd of 5,000.

Picture of crowd eating.

Those five loaves and two pieces of fish had miraculously turned into enough for everyone to eat!

"Gather up the leftover food." Jesus commanded His disciples.

Picture of disciples returning to Jesus with the leftover food.

When the disciples had gathered up what was left there were 12 baskets of food!

As you grow into adults there will be times in your life when you have a problem that seems like it just doesn't have any answer. God can overcome a problem that seems as impossible as feeding 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fish. He wants you to turn to Him for help with your need and give thanks for your blessings even if they are small one, just like Jesus did for the five loaves and two fish so long ago.

Optional Activities

Activity: (This may be something start before the story?) If there is time, preheat oven to 350. Use thawed whole-wheat dough that has already risen once. Divide dough into balls for each

child. Have children roll dough into five smaller loaves. Bake for 15-20 minutes. When the loaves have cooled, pass out to kids to put into their baskets along with goldfish crackers.

Craft: While the loaves are baking, pass out sheets of construction paper. Have the children glue the basket pattern to the top fold and cut out accordion pattern. Pass out remainder of basket patterns and have the children glue the patterns onto the folds, alternating right side up and upside down. Have kids color their baskets. By this time the loaves should be done. The baskets can be glued accordion style into lap book or memory book later.

Game: Prop the Wheel of Fortune Wheel on the blackboard/whiteboard or chair, if using poster board. If using the blackboard/whiteboard, print the alphabet along the bottom of the board. Draw lines for the hidden message. As children guess the letters, write in the correct guesses. Cross off the wrong ones from the alphabet list. Keep track of the player's scores. Play this like the Wheel of Fortune, after player spins they must be able to answer a question before picking a letter. Extra points could be given for correct answers. Unlike the Wheel of Fortune, where a player continues until he misses, each player only gets one spin unless the players spin stops on the "Extra turn" space.

Questions-

1. Where were Jesus and His disciples going to rest and pray? (*The desert*)
2. How did the crowd find Jesus in the desert? (*They followed Him*)
3. True or False? When Jesus saw the great crowd of people He got mad because they had followed Him. (*False. He had compassion on the people.*)
4. What did the people want Jesus to do for them? (*Teach them about God and heal them.*)
5. How long did the crowd stay with Jesus? (*Until evening.*)
6. What did the disciples want Jesus to tell the people after they had been listening to Jesus all day? (*They wanted Jesus to tell the crowd to go home*)
7. Jesus told the crowd to leave and get something to eat. True or False? (*False.*)
8. True or False? Jesus told His disciples to get the people something to eat. (*True*)
9. True or False? When Jesus told His disciples to provide food for the multitude they said, "Sure! We've got enough money to buy food for 10,000 people!" (*False.*)
10. Jesus told His disciples to go into the crowd to see if anyone had any? A. Money B. food C. grape juice (*B. food*)
11. The only ones in the crowd that had food were: A. Three little old ladies B. A young boy C. A pair of red haired girls. (*B. A young boy*)
12. The boy had a basket filled with: A. chicken legs B. cheese C. Five barley loaves and two fish. (*C. Five barley loaves and two fish*)
13. True or False? Jesus told his disciples to have the crowd sit down in groups of 50 and 100. (*True*)
14. After all the food had been passed out and everyone had enough to eat, how many baskets were left over? (*12*)
15. True or False? God can solve problems in our lives that seem impossible as feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. (*True*)
16. What did Jesus do after all the people sat down? (*He gave thanks to God for the food.*)
17. When we have problems God wants us to? A. Stay away from church until we get our problem solved. B. Go to Him asking for help and giving thanks for our blessings. C. Go hit a punching bag. (*B. Go to him asking for help and giving thanks for our blessings.*)

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