

Jesus Feeds the 5000

Teacher Pep Talk: Feeding a multitude is a daunting task. If we are asked to do it, we often stand there with our 2 fish and our 5 little loaves of bread and wonder how they can possibly help the situation. The answer is that we simply need to give them to Jesus. After all, it is He who blesses our offering and gives it back to us to distribute to the crowd. Then, miraculously, everyone gets fed; and we are left with more than we started with! We end up wondering why we ever doubted in the first place.

You will need: A copy of the activity sheet for each child
Crayons or markers
Consider construction paper, yarn, scissors, paper sacks, and glue.
Small Rolls in a small basket or a paper sack (+/- Gummy Fish)

Major Points: Crowds of people followed Jesus to hear Him teach
One day a crowd of over 5000 people was listening to Him
The crowd got hungry, but there wasn't any food nearby
One boy had 2 fish and 5 small loaves of bread
Jesus blessed the food and fed all the people with it
There were 12 baskets of food left over!

Scripture Ref. Matthew 14:14-21 (Jesus Feeds the 5000)

Memory Verse: Matthew 14:16 "You give them something to eat."

Lesson: **Crowds of people followed Jesus to hear Him teach**

- How many of you have a teacher? (*Wait for answers. Ask if they like their teachers, etc.*)
- What kind of things do teachers do? (*They teach. They talk, etc.*)
- That's right! Teachers talk, and they show us things and teach us things that we need to learn. That's called teaching!
- Jesus was a teacher! He taught people about God.
- He was a wonderful teacher and people would follow Him all around and sit for hours just to hear what He had to say.
- Crowds of people followed Jesus just to hear Him teach

One day a crowd of over 5000 people was listening to Him

- How many is a "crowd?" (*Wait for answers. There will probably be some discussion on this. Talk about numbers of people and how many is "a lot", etc.*)
- A crowd can be different numbers of people, but mostly a crowd is a LOT of people. Maybe even more than you can count easily.

- The Bible tells us that one day a crowd of over 5000 people was listening to Jesus.
- There were 5000 men, and then there were also women and children there with them.
- That is a LOT of people! That is a real crowd!

The crowd got hungry, but there wasn't any food nearby

- Late in the day, the people started getting hungry
- But the problem was, there wasn't anywhere nearby to buy food (*They were in a remote place.*)
- Jesus' disciples suggested to Jesus that they send the crowd away so that they could go and find food to eat
- But Jesus said, "*They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.*"
- Wow! That surprised the Disciples. They weren't expecting that! They didn't have any food to feed that many people!!!
- In fact, no one had any food except for one little boy.

One boy had 2 small fish and 5 little loaves of bread

- (*If you have your sack or basket of rolls, consider showing them now. You may do activity now if you so choose.*)
- One little boy had brought some food with him. It was to be his meal. He had 2 tiny little fish and 5 little rolls of bread. (*Like a sack lunch.*)
- The disciples came to Jesus and said "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish."
- Jesus told them to bring them to Him.

Jesus blessed the food and fed all of the people with it.

- Jesus directed all of the people sit down on the grass.
- Jesus took the 5 loaves and the 2 fish.
- He looked up to heaven, gave thanks, and then broke the loaves.
- Then He gave the loaves and fish to His disciples and they gave it to the people.
- All the people ate until they were satisfied.

There were 12 baskets of food left over!

- When everyone had eaten, Jesus had the disciples gather up the food that was leftover so that it wouldn't be wasted.
- There were 12 baskets full of extra fish and loaves!
- That means that even if there had been more people there, they would have been able to eat as well!
- It was a miracle!
- God is able to use what we offer to Him to do great and wonderful things! All we have to do is trust Him and offer Him what we have.

Let's pray and thank God that He can do anything! And that He can use what we offer to Him to do really BIG things.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you can do anything!
Thank you that you can use what we offer you to do really BIG things!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen

Suggested Activities: *(Choose a few activities for your class!)*

Coloring Page: Loaves and Fishes

Before Class: Provide one page of the activity sheet for each child, along with crayons or markers for coloring. *For older children, consider allowing them to cut out their own loaves from construction paper and to paste them on to the activity sheet. They may also use yarn to outline the fish. Provide construction paper, scissors, glue, and yarn.*

During Class: Tell the children that you are going to color a picture of the 2 fish and the 5 loaves. *For younger children have them count and show you on their fingers how many is 2 and 5. Then have them count the fish and the loaves in the picture. They may even write the numbers near the loaves and the fish.* For older children allow them to cut out rolls from construction paper and glue them on their papers. They may also like to outline the fish with glue and yarn.

OPTIONS:

- Use a hole-punch to make two holes at the top of the paper. Put yarn through the holes and tie it, so that the paper may be hung up on the wall or on a door knob. OR
- After coloring the picture, cut out the fish and the loaves with scissors, and place the fish and the loaves in a paper sack for each child. *(Like a sack lunch.)* You could also use a small plastic bag with a closeable top.

Snack Time: Enjoy Eating Loaves and Fishes

Re-enact part of the story of the loaves and the fishes. You may choose to do this during the actual lesson or after the lesson. *(Watch for food allergies!)*

Jesus blessed the food and fed all of the people with it.

- Jesus directed all of the people sit down on the grass. (Ask the children to sit down on the ground.)
- Jesus took the 5 loaves and the 2 fish. (Take the small basket of rolls.)
- He looked up to heaven, gave thanks, and then broke the loaves. (Look upwards, thank God for providing the rolls, and then break them into pieces.)
- Then He gave the loaves and fish to His disciples and they gave it to the people. (Distribute the pieces of roll to each of the children.)
- All the people ate until they were satisfied. (Allow the children to eat.)
- Consider Gummy Fish to represent the fish in the story!

