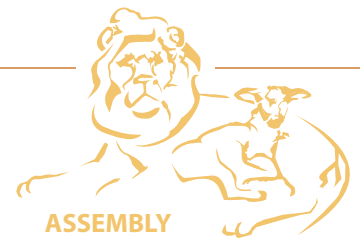


# JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 6:1-16



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

#### Supplies

a piece of molded bread  
(A week or so before the lesson, put a piece of bread in a re-sealable plastic bag along with a few drops of water. Seal the bag and allow the bread to mold.)

Read John 6:22-35 to the children. Explain to them that this section of the scripture is really part two of the teaching. Jesus was saying here that he is the one to supply our needs. Jesus reminds us that normal bread perishes but Jesus, the bread of life, endures forever. Show the kids how bread perishes with mold in a short time.

Then use the point to emphasize that Jesus is the bread that never perishes.

**Note: Keep the bread sealed in the bag; some children might be allergic to molds.**

### MULTIPLY THE BREAD

#### Supplies

- blue construction fish
- a loaf of bread
- bottled water
- a basket
- cups from the children's ministry supply (Cut out thirty identical fish, staple them into two stacks of fifteen fish)

Act out the scene with the children. Have one child play Philip, and another play Jesus and a third child act as the little boy. The rest of the class can be the multitude.

With you as the narrator, help the children act out this story. When it comes to multiplying the bread, the child playing Jesus can distribute the bread and start tearing the individual construction paper fish from the stapled stack. This represents the multiplying of the bread and fish. Give each child a cup of water.

Allow the children to eat the bread and then send someone around to pick up the scraps in a basket. Remind them that Jesus had twelve baskets full of leftovers. Then discuss how the skit helped them understand the story.

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### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Read further into John chapter 6 to hear part two of the story and Jesus' instructions.

In verse 35 Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Jesus feeding the five thousand is a picture of a greater salvation He is going to bring. He is not just the multiplier of the fish and the loaves. He Himself is the bread of life.

Verse 40 continues, "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

