

JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 6:1-16



The STORY

Read about Jesus feeding the five thousand in John 6:1-16.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Why were 5,000 people following Jesus? (The people were amazed that Jesus was healing the sick and so they followed Him.)
- What did Jesus ask Philip? (Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread for so many. He asked this to test Philip's faith. Philip thought it would be impossible to get bread for so many people and did not expect Jesus to provide miraculously.)
- How did they feed the crowd? (A young boy had five barley loaves and two fish that the disciples took to Jesus. Jesus blessed the food and multiplied it to feed the people with enough left over to fill twelve baskets!)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a boy with five loaves and two small fish. Engage the children by asking:

- How are you like the little boy? (The little boy did not have what was needed without Jesus' help.)
- What do we learn about God from this story? (God is all-powerful and is not limited like we are.)
- What do you think Philip learned when he saw Jesus multiply the fish and the loaves? (Phillip probably saw how his faith was weak and that he was quick to doubt. He likely learned, like we are by reading this story, that Jesus was no ordinary man. Jesus was God.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What lesson do you think Jesus was trying to teach Philip? (Jesus wanted to teach Philip that He was able to provide for the needs of man because He was God.)
- What did the people try to do after they witnessed this miracle? (They tried to make Jesus their king.)
- Why did Jesus slip away and not allow them to make Him king? (The people wanted to make Jesus a king over an earthly kingdom. Jesus was already a king of a heavenly kingdom. Jesus came to deliver people from sin, not the Roman rule.)

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."

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.