



THE ENORMOUS PICNIC

Nursery • March 2025

Concept

God can do miracles.

Goal

The children will learn that Jesus fed 5,000 people with two small fish and five small loaves of bread. Jesus can perform miracles because He is God.

Passage

John 6:1-14

Key Verse: "After the people saw the miracle, they said, 'Surely God has sent Him.'" John 6:14 (paraphrased)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies

- Read Aloud Bible Stories, Vol.2, pp. 70-98
- The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Toddlers, pp. 168-179
- The Beginners Bible for Toddlers, pp. 173-178
- Jesus Loves Me Bible, pp. 300-303
- Laminated, magnet-backed figures

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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The feeding of the 5,000 was an attesting miracle Jesus performed to demonstrate that He is God (John 5:36). “It shows Jesus as supplier of human need, and sets the stage for his testimony that He is the bread of life (v.35).”[1] Jesus had sent out His disciples on their own to preach the gospel, and they returned to describe their experiences to Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus had withdrawn to a “desolate place” near the Sea of Galilee.

A large group of people, numbering 5,000 men (as women and children were not counted, there were likely 10,000 to 15,000 people in all), had followed Jesus and Jesus had taught them. Late in the day, the disciples suggested that Jesus send the people away into nearby villages so they could get something to eat. His response was to direct the disciples to feed them. But they protested that even if they could find enough food it would cost eight months wages to feed everyone.

Andrew brought forward five barley loaves and two fish. Barley loaves were cheap bread, the food of the poor. Unlike modern bread, these were small, flat loaves. A person could easily eat several in one meal. The fish were small, about the size of sardines. Jesus gave thanks to the Father, divided these meager offerings, and had the disciples serve the people. Miraculously, “all ate and were satisfied.” Jesus then had the disciples gather the leftovers. Even more incredibly, they filled twelve baskets. This sign directed people to Jesus and His food of eternal life.

In John 6:26-27, 29, 35, Jesus addressed those who approached Him, “you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.” “This is the work of God that you believe in him who was sent.” “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry.” Jesus is the “Bread of Life” who can satisfy and fill every need. However, we often do not allow Him to meet our needs and are reluctant to give up control. He wants us to hand our lives over to Him and allow Him to be our provision. Consider an issue He has before you right now. Take the time this week to feed on His truth. Ask Him to show you His provision each day. Step out in faith to experience His supernatural provision as you trust Him. Share your insights and revelations with your team.

[1] John 6:1-15 note from NIV Study Bible, p. 1605.

Prayer

Pray for the children

- With your team before class
- During the week

Pray simple short prayers with the children

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: Use the laminated figures and the story bibles to tell the story.

Main Points:

- Jesus made enough food for a HUGE crowd of people to eat until their tummies were full and there was still more bread and fish. It is called a miracle when someone does something that is impossible.
- God can do miracles
- The Bible says that Jesus made food for all those people because Jesus is God
- "After the people saw the miracle, they said, 'Surely God has sent Him.'" John 6:14

Activity

Creative Play

Instructions: Have a few children at a time use the laminated figures to re-enact the story.

When Jesus made enough food for all the people with only 2 fish and 5 pieces of bread it was a miracle. We know Jesus is God because God can do miracles.