



THE ENORMOUS PICNIC

Preschool-K • #NT13 • February 23, 2025

Concept

Only God can do real miracles!

Goal

The children will learn that Jesus fed 5,000 people with two small fish and five small loaves of bread. They will learn that Jesus performed miracles to show that He was God's Son.

Passage

John 6:1-14

Key Verse: "After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they said, 'Surely this is the one who God has sent.'" John 6:14

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter* (teachers supply) • <i>Black construction paper, 1 sheet</i> • <i>Paper clip</i> • Small, strong, round magnet <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini gummy fish, 2/child • Oyster soup crackers, 5/child • <i>Basket with cloth or paper towel cover</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Praise Bible, Mack Thomas</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basket printed on cardstock, 1/child • Printed loaves, 5/child • Printed fish, 2/child • Markers/crayons • Glue sticks

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded 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 Scripture tells us that Jesus had withdrawn to a “desolate place” near the Sea of Galilee.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 month's 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.

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

Set Up

The week before class:

- Activity Station – Practice the magic tricks illustrated at the end of the lesson.

The day of class:

- Learning Activity #1 – Cut out baskets, bread and fish.
- Introduction – Put the crackers and gummy fish in the covered basket. Set aside 5 crackers and 2 fish to show children.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Magic Tricks**
 - **Instructions:** Do the magic tricks with the following commentary. You can also talk about the "miracle" they see on cartoons where someone is bopped on the head and then gets right up and runs away. Or you can discuss the character who is flattened by an object or vehicle and gets up and runs away, etc. Did you think that was neat? Let me show you another trick. Magic tricks are fun to do. Do you think I really made the quarter go through the table, that my thumb came apart or that you made the paper clip move? It looked like it, but it was really just a trick. Let me show you how I did it. (Show them how to do the tricks.) So you see, magic tricks are pretend; they are meant to fool people.

Introduction Lg. Group

Do you know what a miracle is? Miracles are not tricks like those I showed you earlier. A miracle is something amazing that happens but we can't explain or understand how it happened. If I really could pull my thumb apart and put it back together again that would be a miracle, wouldn't it?

Anyone can do tricks, but only God can do real miracles! The Bible tells us that Jesus did real miracles! They were not tricks. Do you know some of the miracles Jesus did? He healed sick people, made blind people see, and brought people back to life after they died. We know He was God because only God can do real miracles!

Instructions: Draw the children into the story by giving each child five crackers. After they eat the crackers ask them if they are full. Then give each child the two gummy fish and again ask if they now are full.

Today we are going to learn about one of the miracles that Jesus did. A little boy gave Jesus his lunch to share with a lot of people. There were many, many people—many more people than are in this class or in your neighborhood, even many more people than there are cars out in our parking lot. This lunch had only two fish and five small pieces of bread to share with all those people. Do you think everyone would even get a bite? Let's find out.

**Lesson
Continued
Lg. Group**

Everyone look up here so you can see the pictures as I read.

Instructions: Read "Jesus Feeds a Huge Crowd" from The Praise Bible, pages 320-328.

After the people ate until their tummies were full there was still more bread and fish. They were amazed. The Bible says, "After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they said, 'Surely this is the one who God has sent.'" Jesus fed all those people because He wanted them to know that He was God's Son. Many of the people believed Jesus was God's Son and that He loved them very much. Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend. He wants to forgive you for all your bad choices. And He wants you to go to heaven to live with Him forever after you die. Have you asked Jesus to forgive you for your bad choices and to be your friend?

Let's pray now. Let's thank Jesus that He loves us so much and ask Him to help us remember that He wants to take care of us.

Let's make a craft to help us remember that Jesus fed many, many people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. He was able to do that because only God can do real miracles.

Craft – Basket with Loaves & Fish

- **Instructions:** Give each a cardstock basket, five loaves and two fish. Write their names on the basket. Color the loaves and fish, cut them out and then glue them on one side of their baskets. Have the children count how many loaves and fish they have as they glue them on. Show them how to do a "magic" trick with their basket. Hold the blank side up so it can be seen. Then put it behind their back and say some "magic" words like "bread and fish appear," turn it over and bring it forward to show the bread and fish side. As the children work, talk about the significance of Jesus' miracle and reinforce the difference between magic and God's power. Only God can do real miracles. They can take their basket home and do the "magic" trick, then explain that Jesus did real miracles.

Everyone can do little tricks like pulling off your thumb or making a coin go through the table, but what can only God do? (Only God can do miracles.) When Jesus fed all of those people with just the two fish and five loaves of bread, He performed a miracle. We know He was God since only God can do miracles. What did Jesus do for us that is so important? (He died on the cross to pay for our sins.) All we have to do is admit that we have made bad choices and ask for Jesus' death to pay for those bad choices. Let's pray now and thank Jesus for what He's done for us.

Transition

**Learning
Activity#1
Lg. Group**

**Learning
Activity#2
Sm. Groups**

Magic Tricks

Thumb pull-apart:

Looks as if you are pulling your thumb apart and putting it back together again.



Moving Paper Clip:

Put the round magnet and your hand under the black construction paper. Put the paper clip on top of the construction paper. Hand the child an imaginary string and ask the child to slowly pull the string. As the child pulls the string, push the magnet under the construction paper in the direction the child pulls the string. Do several times with different children. See if they can guess how it works.

Coin through Table[1]:

Effect: A quarter or a half-dollar is tapped on the table a few times, laid down and covered by the performer's hand. Mysteriously the coin has gone through the table and has fallen into the performer's other hand.

Secret: Begin with the coin lying about a foot from the edge of the table. Slide the coin all the way off the edge of the table to pick it up. Tap the coin on the table a few times, hold the coin in the palm of your hand and slap the coin on the table covering it with your hand. Tell the spectators that you are going to push the coin through the table and pretend to try as hard as you can. Uncover the coin saying it must not have worked, and tell them you will attempt to do it again. This time when you slide the coin off the edge of the table, drop it into your left hand. Reach under the table with the coin in your left hand and hit the coin on the bottom of the table as you pretend to slap the coin on the tabletop with your right hand. Pretend to push it through the table again, lift your hand and bring the coin out from under the table.

[1] <http://www.backstagemagic.com/secretframes.htm>.