



THE ENORMOUS PICNIC

Young Preschool • #NT13 • February 25, 2024

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"> • <i>Black construction paper, 1 sheet</i> • <i>Paper clip</i> • <i>Small, strong, round magnet (classrooms w/carts – in supply cart)</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal size paper with two columns of fish printed on both sides, 1/class • Tape • <i>Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol.2, Ella Lindvall</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed picture, 1/child • Loaves stickers, 1/child • Fish stickers, 1/child • Markers/crayons

*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 Scripture tells us that Jesus had withdrawn to a “desolate place” near the Sea of Galilee.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 at the end of the lesson.

The day of class:

- Lesson – Cut the double-sided legal page of printed fish in half vertically, tape them together end to end so there is one 28" strip of fish. Fanfold the fish so there is one fish on the top.

Activity Stations:

- **Magic Tricks**

- **Instructions:** Do the magic tricks with the following commentary. Have you ever seen anyone do a magic trick? Magic tricks are fun to do. (Put the magnet under the black construction paper and place the paper clip on top over the magnet.) Do you think you really made the paper 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 trick.) Do the Thumb-Apart and ask if they think you really took your thumb apart. So you see, magic tricks are pretend; they are meant to fool people. Do you ever watch cartoons and see people jump up after they've been bopped on the head or fallen from a very high place. We can't really jump and run after we've been hurt can we? That's kind of like magic tricks, too. They don't really happen.

Do you know what a miracle is? Miracles are not tricks like 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 miracles and these miracles were real! Jesus 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!

Today we are going to learn about a miracle 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 you have in your family or even in this class, many more people than you see at the swimming pool or at the playground on a warm day. 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.

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

Instructions: Read "The Boy Who Shared His Lunch" from Read-Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 2, pages 69-97. After reading the story, hold up the fanfold strip fish showing the top fish only. Let the strip fall exposing all the fish.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued Lg. Group

Jesus made many, many more fish than this out of just two real fish. 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 forgive you for all your bad choices. He wants to be your friend. 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. If you have never asked Jesus to forgive you and be your friend, you can do that 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.

Transition

Let's color a picture to help us remember that Jesus fed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. He was able to do that because only God can do real miracles.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

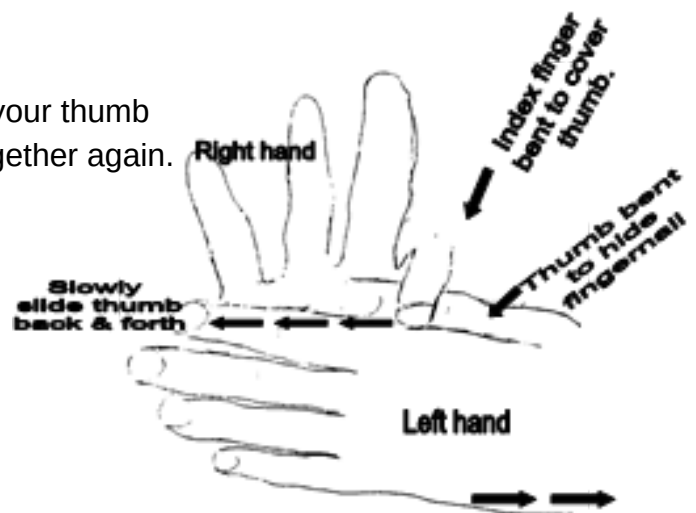
Craft – Jesus fed thousands...

- **Instructions:** Give each child a printed picture, a sticker with five loaves and a sticker with two fish. Color the picture and the stickers. Put the stickers on the basket. Talk about the significance of the miracle and reinforce the difference between magic and God's power. Only God can do real miracles.

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.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups