



Jesus Feeds the Multitude

Matthew 14:13–21



LESSON GOAL

Students will not only marvel at Jesus' miracles, but also submit to His authority.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Describe the scene and tell what happened after Jesus had the people sit down.
- Explain why Jesus told the disciples to give the people food.
- Analyze what this miracle reveals about Jesus and His authority.

KEY VERSE

“Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.” —*Matthew 14:19*

APPLICATION

- Believe that Jesus is God because He fed the multitude.
- Trust that only through Jesus' power can man be saved from sin.
- Have compassion on those who need a Savior.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22–34

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

After presenting the Kingdom parables in Matthew 13, Matthew continues to describe the mounting opposition to Jesus’ ministry. He first describes the opposition in his hometown of Nazareth. Jesus is rejected in His hometown at the end of Matthew 13 not because of His “wisdom and mighty works” (13:54) but because the inhabitants were “offended at Him” (13:57). While the people recognized Jesus’ authority, they rejected Him because of His message.

Jesus was opposed not only by his neighbors, but also by Herod the tetrarch. Herod the tetrarch was the son of Herod the Great, who had tried to kill Jesus as a child. Although not as powerful as his father had been, Herod the tetrarch continued his father’s opposition to God’s authority. Matthew 14:3–12 tells how Herod imprisoned and beheaded John the Baptist. When Herod heard from his servants “the report about Jesus,” (14:1) the paranoid Herod said, “This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him” (14:2). The superstitious and apparently guilt-ridden Herod recognized that John had authority, and now feared that John had come back in judgment. Because of his fears, Herod desired to see Jesus, perhaps to arrest Him also (Luke 9:9).

In the midst of opposition from petty neighbors and powerful rulers, Jesus continued to perform miracles which strengthened His disciples’ faith and challenged the crowds to accept His message. Jesus’ miracles were proof He had the authority to call men to repentance and to place their faith in Him. One of the most dramatic of these miracles is recorded in all four Gospels: the feeding of the 5,000.

Jesus’ Compassion for the Crowd (Matt. 14:13–14)

When the disciples returned to Jesus after being sent out to perform miracles and to preach the gospel of the kingdom (Mark 6:7–12,30; Luke 9:1–6,10), the disciples told Jesus not only about Herod’s looking for Him (Matt. 14:13), but also about everything the disciples had done and said (Mark 6:30; Luke 9:10). The Lord demonstrated His love for the disciples when He told them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). Jesus recognized their need to rest because “there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31). So many people surrounded Jesus that it was difficult for the disciples to eat, talk, and recover from their trips. Jesus and the disciples went by boat to a deserted area near the city of Bethsaida, located on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 14:13; Mark 6:32; Luke 9:10).

When the multitude saw Jesus and the disciples leave by boat, they followed Him on foot (Matt. 14:13; Mark 6:33; Luke 9:11). Some actually arrived before Jesus because they ran ahead of Him (Mark 6:33). When a multitude had gathered, Jesus “was moved with compassion for them” (Matt. 14:14). The crowds had come

“because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased” (John 6:2). The crowds wanted Jesus for what He did and not for who He was, but Jesus still loved them. In Matthew 9:36, Jesus had compassion on the multitude because “they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” Because of His compassion for this crowd in the isolated area, Jesus “received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing” (Luke 9:11). Jesus has such compassion for the crowds that He planned on feeding them (John 6:5). He wanted to care for not only their spiritual needs but also their physical needs.

Jesus’ Challenge to the Disciples (Matt. 14:15–17)

Although Jesus knew what he was going to do for the crowds (John 6:6), He did not tell His disciples. When day turned into evening, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food” (Matt. 14:15). The people had decided so quickly to pursue Jesus that most had not brought food with them (Mark 6:36). Not only did the people need to eat, but the disciples may also have been eager to spend more time with Jesus and to tell Him about their recent preaching trips.

Instead of sending the crowds away, Jesus tested the disciples by giving them the responsibility of feeding the crowd. Jesus told the disciples, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat” (Matt. 14:16; Mark 6:37; Luke 9:13). Jesus specifically asked Philip where they could buy enough food for the multitude (John 6:5). (Philip, like Peter and Andrew, had grown up in the area.) Philip failed the test when he answered, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them” (John 6:7). The denarius was the common wage for a day’s labor. Philip’s response was mathematically sound. If one man worked for two hundred days (or approximately eight months), he would still not have enough to feed the crowd. But Philip’s problem was that he was too busy punching his mental calculator to contemplate the majesty and goodness of the Messiah before him.

Jesus then told them to go and see how much food they did have (Mark 6:38). Like Philip, Andrew also revealed his lack of faith in Jesus’ ability to feed the crowds. Although he found a boy with a lunch of “five barley loaves and two small fish” (John 6:9), Andrew expressed doubt over the usefulness of so little in feeding a crowd so large. Andrew rhetorically asked Jesus, “What are they among so many?” (John 6:9). Neither Philip, Andrew, nor any of the other disciples responded in faith. They should have recognized Jesus’ power and said, “Jesus, although we cannot feed them, You can.” Instead of looking to the one who had made the people, they vainly scratched their heads and looked at the people. Jesus’ test was designed to bring their attention to His sufficiency, but instead they focused on their insufficiency.

Jesus’ Command over the Universe (Matt. 14:18–21)

After taking the food (Matt. 14:18), Jesus told His disciples to organize the people into groups of fifty and have them sit on the grass (Matt. 14:19; Mark 6:39–40; Luke 9:14–15; John 6:10). The Apostle John mentions that there was much grass there and Mark tells that the grass was green (John 6:10; Mark 6:39). It was spring since the Passover was near (John 6:4). Perhaps the disciples had begun to guess what Jesus was planning, but the people must have anxiously wondered what amazing thing He was going to do next. When all had been seated, Jesus took the food, looked to heaven, blessed God, thanked Him for the food, broke the bread, divided the fish, and then gave the food to the disciples (Matt. 14:19; Mark 6:41; Luke 9:16; John 6:11). The disciples in turn passed out the food to the multitudes.

Just as it is impossible to know what it looked like for a withered hand to grow back, a storm to be calmed, or an ear to be reattached, it is impossible to know exactly how the food multiplied. Instead of explaining exactly how it looked, the Gospel authors chose to focus on the dramatic outcome of the miracle. The first dramatic result was that the people “all ate and were filled” (Matt. 14:20). John adds that the people ate “as much as they wanted” (John 6:11). From five loaves and two fish, God multiplied enough food to satiate a multitude. Not only was there enough food, but there were even leftovers! The second dramatic result was that there were twelve baskets of leftover bread (Matt. 14:20). When the people had finished eating, Jesus commanded the disciples to “gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost” (John 6:12). When the disciples had finished, each had his own basket of leftovers. God had perfectly planned how much food He would create from the bread and fishes—He even planned out what the people wouldn’t eat! Matthew saves the last dramatic result for the end: “Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children” (Matthew 14:21). Perhaps as many as 25,000 people were present for the miraculous meal! Never before had Jesus done a miracle which directly affected so many people. All of those who sat in the cool of the early evening, their bellies satisfied and their minds racing with what Jesus had done, had to ask themselves how they were going to respond to the miracle they had just seen.

Conclusion

Although Matthew, Mark, and Luke do not reveal how the crowd responded to Jesus’ miracle, John does. After the multitude saw Jesus’ sign, they rightly concluded, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world” (John 6:14). But instead of responding to His authority by repenting and believing in Him, the people tried to bring the Messiah under their authority. “Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king” (John 6:15). The people wanted a king who would be able to satisfy their stomachs, not one who commanded obedience and demanded faith. They were willing for Jesus to be authoritative as long as they remained autonomous.

On the next day, Jesus exposed their false motives and challenged them to believe in Him as the Bread of Life (John 6:22–66). Not only did the multitude reject Him as the way of salvation, but even those who had previously called themselves His disciples turned away (John 6:66). Many are willing to come to Jesus as a compassionate shepherd or a gracious provider. They are willing to call Him king if their desires are satisfied. But only those whom the Father has given (John 6:35) will place their faith in the Son and submit their lives to Him.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth."
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

What was Jesus doing in today's lesson?
Jesus was teaching the people a parable.

What story did Jesus teach about?
Jesus taught the people the parable of the sower.

What did the disciples ask Jesus?
They asked Him why He taught in parables.

What does it mean to have "ears to hear"?
The people with "ears to hear" are those who God who allows to understand His message.



WOW!

Have you ever seen anything that amazed you? Maybe you have been to the circus and seen a man lift up an entire car or a woman who could bend over backwards. These things are pretty amazing but I'll bet that you have never seen someone make food. I do not mean create food like someone would do in a restaurant or like your mom does at home but actually create food to feed thousands of people from one small meal. In today's lesson we will again see that Jesus, without a doubt is God. He will perform a miracle that is truly amazing



More Than Just Marvel—Respond

When the people saw Jesus miracles they were amazed but they did not respond in faith that He is God. Jesus performed His miracles so that people would see His power and believe. Unfortunately, many people saw and were impressed but didn't believe. This is much like the story of a man who was world renowned for his talent as a tightrope walker. He would perform around the world and dazzle people with his amazing feats of balance. On one such tightrope walk over Niagara Falls the crowds were amazed by his skill. When he arrived to the crowd he asked them "Who believes I can push a man in this wheelbarrow across the falls?" A man in the front of the crowd said "I do! I believe!" The tightrope walker then said "Come and get in the wheelbarrow." The man would not get into the wheelbarrow. The man would not back up his faith with actions. The people in today's lesson were amazed by Jesus' miracle but did not truly believe that He is God.



A Testing

Do you enjoy tests in school? Not many people do but it is a great way to see what you understand. This is how teachers check to see that you are learning what they are teaching. Tests come in different forms. Some tests are on paper and others are with words and actions. In today's lesson Jesus will test the disciples.



The disciples find themselves in what looks like an impossible situation. There are thousands of people before them and they will need to eat. They came to Jesus for guidance but He already knew what He would do. He is testing them to see if they truly believe that He is God.

Compassion

When Jesus saw the crowds all around Him, He had compassion on them. Compassion is seeing people in need and then wanting to help them. They had brought their sick and they were like sheep without a shepherd. He knew that they had an even greater need than hunger or sickness. It was to be saved from the eternal punishment of their sins. When have you felt compassion for someone? How did you try to help them or comfort them in their tough time of life?



A Sea of Faces

Illustrate to the students just how many people were sitting on the grass before Jesus. The chances are that there were far more than 5,000 men there that day. The estimated number is closer to 25,000 people counting women and children. Lay a large piece of butcher paper across the floor. Give the children markers and ask them to draw 25,000 circles for faces. They will lose count quickly but have them fill as much of the page as possible. Use this illustration to show them the incredible miracle that Jesus did this day.



Collect the Extras

Materials: created loaves of bread, fish, and baskets. These objects could be made out of various materials such as paper bags, cardstock, etc. Create baskets for the students out of paper bags with the top rolled down.

Directions: The object of this game is for the students to collect the baskets of left-over food like the disciples did after Jesus fed the multitude. Create enough bread and fish for 12 baskets to be filled. Divide up the students into teams divisible by 12 (2, 3, 4, 6, or 12) and distribute the bags evenly among teams. The first team to fill their basket(s) and return to their station wins the round. For a longer game play multiple rounds.



One Piece Into Thousands

Pass out a piece of bread (or a paper shaped like bread) to each student. Ask the students to break the bread into 5,000 pieces. As they begin to tear, ask them to keep track of how many pieces they have in front of them. They will realize quickly that 5,000 is a big number and the pieces of bread get smaller and smaller. Ask the students if one of these little pieces would fill them up? Explain that what happened in today's lesson is truly a miracle. Jesus fed 5,000 men with only five loaves and two fish and they were all full. Even after the people were finished, they filled 12 baskets with the leftovers.



How Many Could You Feed?

Ask the children if their families ever host birthday parties or special holidays. As the discussion unfolds, direct the kids' attention to how many people came to one of those events and how much work it was to feed so many people. Stretch their imagination by asking how many people they think their parents could feed at one time. Begin with a realistic number and go higher and higher. End with five thousand, the number of men who Jesus fed with only five loaves of bread and two fish. (Don't forget to tell the kids, that counting women and children, there could have easily been 15,000 people present.)

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

Jesus’ Compassion for the Crowd (Matt. 14:13–14)

Jesus’ Challenge to the Disciples (Matt. 14:15–17)

Jesus’ Command over the Universe (Matt. 14:18–21)

Introduction

Have you ever been hungry but had no food to eat? If only somebody was around to cook you up something tasty. Imagine how thankful you would be, how you would respond to someone who was able to supply food during a time when you were without. Well in today’s lesson a group of five thousand men who were following Jesus experienced a similar situation. The people were without food. All that was available were five loaves of bread and two fish, not near enough to feed five thousand men. This was another opportunity for Jesus to display His power and authority to the people and to His disciples. The disciples were challenged by Jesus to act in faith. Let’s see how the disciples responded to Jesus’ test of their faith in Him.



Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What did Jesus and His disciples find when they landed on the shores of this deserted place?

Answer: Jesus and His disciples traveled to a deserted place to escape the crowds and find some rest. Jesus and His disciples found that a huge crowd had followed them to their hideaway. A crowd of five thousand men (plus women and children that might have been with them) had followed them along the shore. Some had even run ahead of Jesus’ boat, beating them to the shore.

LOQ: Why had so many traveled along the shore to spend time with Jesus?

Answer: The crowd of people had either seen or heard of the miracles that Jesus was doing. They wanted to see this Jesus who had the power to heal the sick, cure the demon possessed, calm the sea, and raise the dead. They wanted to follow after Jesus for what He could do for them, not for who He was.

LOQ: How did Jesus respond to the crowd that had gathered along the shore?

Answer: Even though the people had come out of selfishness, Jesus still loved them. Matthew writes that Jesus was “moved with compassion for them” (Matt 14:14). Jesus saw a needy group of people and was moved to supply them with

what they needed. Because of His compassion, Jesus began teaching them and healing among them who were sick. Aware that the huge crowd had no food to eat, Jesus' compassion for the people also led him to provide food for them. Instead of sending them away to the neighboring villages for food, Jesus was out to care for all their needs, both spiritual and physical.

LOQ: If Jesus knew that He was going to give the crowd food to eat, why did He ask His disciples to give them food?

Answer: Jesus asked the disciples to give the people food as a test. Jesus wanted to see how the disciples would respond when asked to do the impossible. There was no possible way that twelve ordinary men would be able to feed five thousand men. For the disciples to take the responsibility of feeding such a crowd required that they have faith in Jesus.

LOQ: How do the disciples respond to Jesus telling them to feed the group of five thousand?

Answer: The disciples' response to Jesus' request was one of doubt and selfishness. Having only five loaves of bread and two fish, the disciples questioned what could be done to provide so many people with so little food. Even the disciples had witnessed Jesus' previous miracles, the disciples failed to respond in faith.

LOQ: What happens after Jesus has the disciples sit the people down in the grass?

Answer: When all had been seated, Jesus took the food, looked to heaven, blessed God, thanked Him for the food, broke the food, divided the fish, and then gave the food to the disciples. The disciples then gave to each person enough food to satisfy his or her hunger. Jesus had performed yet another miraculous work. That Jesus had fed a group of five thousand men with only five loaves of bread and two fish was an absolute display of divine power. Matthew also adds that not only were the people fed with plenty, but that there was a great deal left over for the disciples, twelve baskets to be exact. Never before had Jesus done a miracle that directly affected so many people.

LOQ: What did the feeding of the five thousand men reveal about Jesus?

Answer: That Jesus was able to do such a miraculous work truly was proof that he was God's Son. He had power over the entire universe, able to heal the sick and feed the hungry. This power proved that Jesus, as God's Son, had the authority to call men to repentance and to place their faith in Him. That the crowds' stomachs were full challenged them to accept Jesus' message of denying self and following Him.

Summary

Seeing that His disciples were due for some well-needed rest, Jesus instructs them to go and find a nice deserted place to eat and relax. Upon reaching the shore of their deserted place, Jesus and His disciples did not find a place of seclusion and rest, but of a needy and hungry mass of people. Five thousand men had followed Jesus along the shore as they sailed away to escape the crowds. When He saw their need for a Savior, Jesus was moved with compassion for the people. Out of love for those around Him Jesus began teaching them and healing their sick. Yet at the end of the day this huge group of men still had empty stomachs. In order to

test the faith of His disciples, Jesus gives His twelve young followers the impossible task of feeding the large crowd. As the disciples prove their lack of faith with such a responsibility, Jesus begins to do what for man is impossible. Using only five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus proves that He is God's Son by feeding the five thousand men. Performing so much with so little was an amazing display of Jesus' power and authority.

Application

Seeing that Jesus possessed the power to feed a group of five thousand men in today's lesson is proof that He is the Son of God. Being God's Son, Jesus has all authority to call all men to repentance and faith in Him. Those that desire to be saved from their sin must turn and submit to Jesus' authority and call on their life. Each and every person who receives salvation in Him should follow the Savior's example of exercising compassion on those in need. All people should give thanks to God for providing abundantly for His people in need.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Five Loaves and Two Fish

To illustrate what the loaves and fish might have been like, show the students two small dried fish and five dinner roles when the section of the story arrives where they gave Jesus all the food that they could find. Also bring in a small basket about the size of a lunch basket. This was likely the size of the baskets that the disciples had collected the extra food in. They brought to Him a young boy's lunch, which consisted of two fish and five small loaves of bread and collected 12 baskets of leftovers.



That's Impossible!

For children who spend little time preparing food and trying to make it stretch, Jesus' feeding of the multitude can sometimes seem insignificant. To help them realize how impossible it is to do what Jesus did, select a volunteer from the class and give him a single, small, cookie. Ask him to share the cookie with the whole class. (Is this section necessary?) Midway through his attempt you could ask those who have already received a piece if they have had enough or whether they want more. Instruct the child to go back and give them some more. It will soon become apparent that one cookie cannot feed even a small class. In today's lesson Jesus did much more than feed a few children.



The Need, the Problem, the Solution

Paraphrase the outline for this lesson with the following three points: 1) See the need 2) See the problem 3) See the solution. Before the lesson write all over the white board with a permanent marker. During the lesson tell the class that you need one of them to clean the board for you. Choose a student to clean the board and supply him with an eraser. The class will see the problem when they realize that the eraser cannot get rid of the permanent marker. Tell the class to figure out a way to

clean the board. While they may come up with some suggestions, few will think of asking you for help. Explain that this was exactly how Jesus' disciples reacted when He asked them to supply food for more than 5,000 people. Explain that Jesus had the ability to solve the problem and meet the need by His power. End by supplying the child with a some dry erase cleaning fluid to clean the board. (Note: dry erase board cleaner should remove permanent marker but it is best to try on an unnoticeable area if unsure.)

Praise and Worship

All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

He Is Able

Change My Heart, Oh God

Fairest Lord Jesus

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Pass the Bread

For this game instruct the students to make to single file lines. Each line is given a loaf of bread. This can be an actual uncut loaf or a something like a nylon filled with newspaper. On the signal have the students pass the bread down their line. To make this interesting, instruct them to pass it in some pattern (eg. over the head, under the legs). When the loaf gets to the end of the line the last person should run to the front of the line and start passing it again. The team to have all their teammates start the bread down the line wins.

Snack Time

When having snack time ask the students to sit in small groups as they did in today's lesson. Give the students cookies and goldfish crackers to share with their groups.



"Loaves and Fish"

Materials: copies of "Loaves and Fish" craft page ribbon, paper fish, paper bread, hand held hole punch, preprinted verse card

Pray with the children, thanking God for all the provisions He gives us. Cut out the pieces of bread and fish with the students. Students may decorate fish and bread. A hole can then be punched in the corner of the bread and at the end of the fish. Using ribbon (or twist-ties) thread the piece of ribbon through the holes. Attach a card with the following verse written on it: "And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples..." Matthew 14:19. (For younger children, twist-ties may be easier to work with.)



Feeding the Multitude

Materials: brown paper loaves of bread, gray paper fish, and sky blue cardstock base sheet, green grass sheet, verse, scissors, glue, black markers or crayons

Procedure: Distribute the materials to the students and instruct them to cut out the various items: bread, fish, grass and verse.

On this day there were many people reclining on the green grass. It must have been an enormous crowd of people that were there that day. It probably looked like a sea of faces. Ask the students to cut the green paper the short way so that it looks like a rolling hill. The students should begin the craft by gluing on to the verse to the top of the page. Next they can glue or tape on the rolling green fields. Ask students to draw circles all over the green grass for all the people that were there that day. Finally, they can tape on the loaves of bread and the fish at the bottom of the page.



Reviewing the Miracles

Since the beginning of Matthew the children have learned about a number of miracles that Jesus performed. In each of these miracles a need is presented, a problem is presented in meeting the need and Jesus is shown to be the solution. Review the various miracles with the children by asking them to identify the need in each case, the problem, and the solution. This review format offers a good opportunity to remind the children what the greatest need of every person is—to be saved from our sin. Our problem is that we cannot save ourselves and the solution is to place our faith in Christ as Savior and Lord.



Multiply

When Jesus told the disciples to feed the people, they responded that two hundred denarii would not be enough money (Mark 6:37). A denarii was the average pay for a day's work. Help the children understand the immensity of the crowds by having them do some multiplication. Ask the children how much they think lunch at a fast food chain would cost for one person. (A little research on the price of a fish sandwich meal could be fun.) Then multiply that amount by the number of children in the room. Then multiply the cost of the lunch by the average number of attendees at your church. Finally, multiply that amount by 15,000, a guess at how many people were present when Jesus fed the multitude. The huge cost will give the children a little more insight into why the disciples were daunted by Jesus' telling them to feed the people. The children's attention could be drawn to the fact that Jesus was looking for a response of faith and not an evaluation of human resources.



“Jesus feeds the multitude”

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.



Small Group Activity: “Acknowledging God”

Use this worksheet in a small group. Lead the students in discussing the questions and their answers. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.

Coloring Pages

Give each child a copy of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



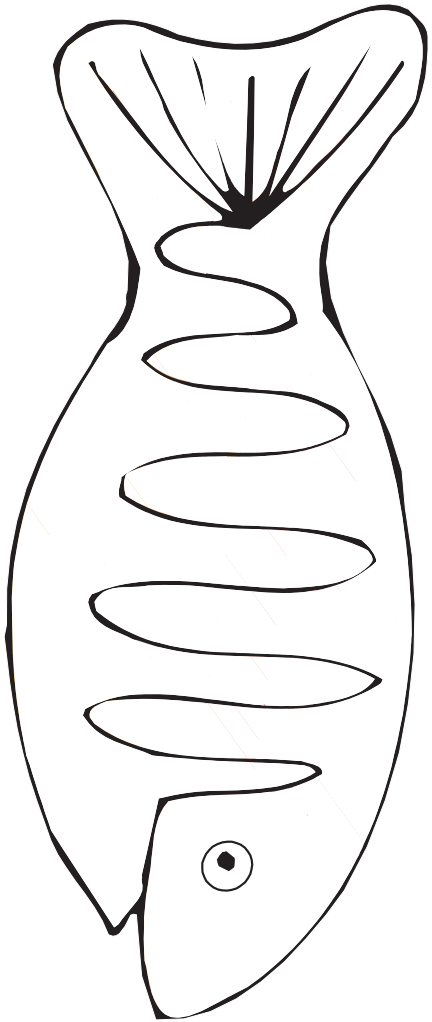
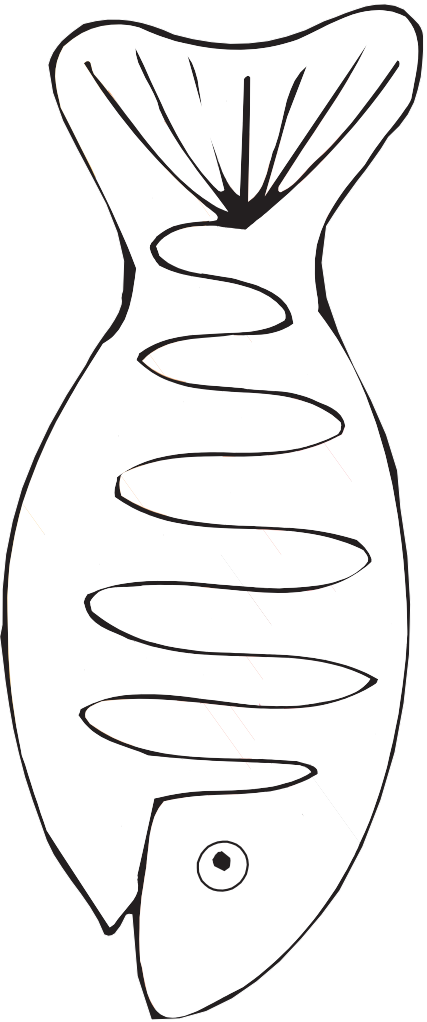
MEMORY VERSE

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” —*Matthew 14:14*

Loaves and Fish



Loaves and Fish



"And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples..."
—Matthew 14:19

Jesus *feeds* the multitude



Matthew 14:13-21

Name _____

1. When Jesus left the crowd by boat, they followed Him on _____.
2. Jesus had _____ for the crowd of people (14:14).
3. How many men were in the crowd?
a. 50 b. 500 c. 5,000 d. 12
4. Luke 9:11 tells us that Jesus spoke to the crowd about the _____ of God.
5. Jesus told the disciples to get _____ for the crowd.
6. The disciples found _____ loaves and two _____.
7. How was Jesus able to feed the large crowd of people? _____

8. How many baskets of food were left over? _____

Acknowledging God

“Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.”

—*Matthew 14:19*

Have you ever shared your lunch with a friend who forgot his lunch, or smiled at a new student? If you have, your teacher probably said that you were a kind and friendly person. By saying that, she was acknowledging you by your deeds.

When Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves and two fishes, people acknowledged Him for His deeds, too. But, even though His miracles declared Him as God, they did not acknowledge Him as God.

In the space below, write what you think the people may have said about Christ.

1. The people who ate the meal might have said:

2. The disciples who handed out the meal might have said:

3. The person who gave his lunch might have said:

Acknowledging God

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2. The disciples who handed out the meal might have said:

3. The person who gave his lunch might have said:

In Luke 9:20, Christ asks, "But whom do you say that I am?"

I know He is:

Because:

Today when your teacher told you the story of Christ feeding the multitude, did you realize that Christ had performed a miracle?

Now that you know, how should you respond?

PRAYER

Lord, You are holy; we are sinners. Thank You for revealing Yourself to sinners and paying for my sins. Help me to live my life in such a way that people will see my good deeds and glorify You.

In Luke 9:20, Christ asks, "But whom do you say that I am?"

I know He is:

Because:

Today when your teacher told you the story of Christ feeding the multitude, did you realize that Christ had performed a miracle?

Now that you know, how should you respond?

PRAYER

Lord, You are holy; we are sinners. Thank You for revealing Yourself to sinners and paying for my sins. Help me to live my life in such a way that people will see my good deeds and glorify You.



"...And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes." —Matthew 14:19



“So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.” —Matthew 14:20

