

# Lesson: Jesus Feeds 5,000 with Boy's Lunch (Matthew 14:13-21)

[ministry-to-children.com/lesson-jesus-feeds-5000-with-boys-lunch-matthew-1413-21](http://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-jesus-feeds-5000-with-boys-lunch-matthew-1413-21)

July 4, 2015



## A Little Lunch and a Lot of Faith...Jesus Feeds 5,000

The story of stretching loaves and fishes is always a hit among miracle lessons. How is it possible that such a small amount of food managed to take care of so many people? This lesson aims to remind students of how God takes care of all of our needs and can do anything, even the seemingly impossible.

**Lesson focus:** God can do fantastic and miraculous things in our lives if we trust Him and let Him do His will.

**Passage:** Matthew 14:13-21

**Target Audience:** Kindergarten-6th Grade (adaptable older or younger)

**Materials Needed:** Fun-sized candy bar, gold fish crackers, dinner rolls (5), tuna cans, crackers (1-2 per student), Swedish fish (2 per student), lunch bags and decorative material (markers, stickers, etc).

**Optional:** Jesus Feeds 5000 coloring page and Skit: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

**Lesson Opening:** This is a great story for telling interactively with students. To open things up, the teacher will take out a candy bar or treat and eat in front of students. After they witness and whine a bit, the teacher can announce that there is more to share, but it will have to go around the whole group. Pull out a tiny fun-sized candy bar and a handful of goldfish crackers. Will this be enough for everyone to have some? How should we split it all up? Explain that today's story will feature a seemingly impossible event that turned out to be a miracle.

## Jesus Feeds 5,000 Bible Lesson

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Provide the backdrop for the story: Jesus was teaching people out by a big lake, and everyone was very excited to hear what he had to say. Ask if anyone has ever been somewhere when there was a big crowd of people. Explain that there were lots of people, and it started getting late.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." (Matthew 14:13-15)

Some of the disciples asked Jesus if there was going to be any food because some of the crowds were getting hungry. There was no way to feed everyone. There were over 5,000 people! Count with students some small items, adding up to about fifty things (or smaller for younger students). Imagine how many people were out by that lake! Jesus told the disciples to see if anyone in the crowd had food to share. How were they going to find someone with enough to feed everyone??

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. (16-19)

But the disciples did find a little boy with a lunch. Hold up a paper bag to demonstrate the lunch. Guess how much food he had? Pull out five dinner rolls and two cans of tuna. Jesus gave thanks for the food. (Say a prayer for the food in the bag, and reach deeper in it to start pulling out snacks.) Then he had disciples start handing out food for people. At this point, begin passing out crackers and gummy fish for each student.

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. -Matthew 14:20-21

Amazingly, there was enough food for everyone to eat. In fact, their tummies got so full there was leftover food to go around. Help students count out twelve of something to show there were twelve baskets leftover. How did Jesus do this? Remind students that Jesus was God, and that God made this amazing miracle possible. Share with them also how people had to trust in God: the disciples had to trust and have faith that Jesus knew what He was doing; and the little boy had to trust Him and be willing to share his lunch. How can we trust God and be willing to sacrifice??

**Craft:** lunch time fun...help students decorate lunch bags with various material, and keep for collections or donations for another time.

Close with prayer and reminder of God's work in our lives. Thank God for His amazing providence in our lives and for always taking care of our needs.

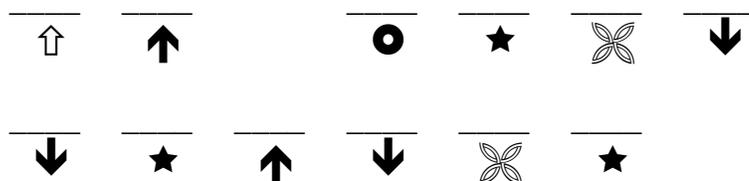
For more Bible story ideas, you can browse our other free lesson plans on this same Bible story.

# Learn About Miracles

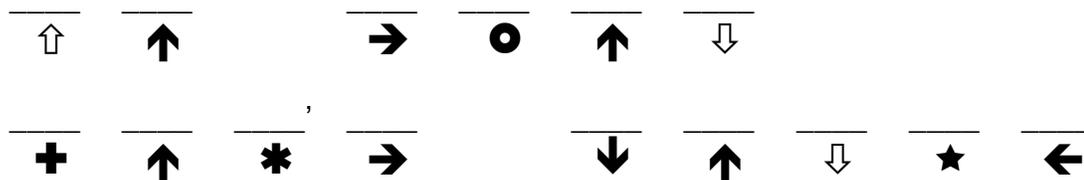
Miracles are supernatural acts that only God can do. Jesus is God, so he did miracles. He calmed a storm, provided food for many people, healed all kinds of sicknesses, and even made dead people alive again!

## Why Did Jesus Do Miracles?

Reason 1:



Reason 2:



Code:



## Lots of Problems

Jesus helped people with lots of different problems. Find these words in the puzzle.

BLIND (can't see)  
DEAF (can't hear)  
HUNGRY

LAME (can't walk)  
LEPER (skin disease)  
MUTE (can't speak)

SAD  
SCARED  
SICK



A	H	U	N	G	R	Y	E	L	T
S	C	A	R	E	D	I	D	A	S
E	A	N	P	U	E	T	U	M	I
R	O	E	N	R	A	I	T	E	C
B	L	I	N	D	F	O	S	E	K



## Jesus Stopped a Storm

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. Sometimes Jesus and the other disciples went with them in the boat. One day a storm came, and Jesus' friends were scared. Jesus made the storm stop!

Read Mark 4:37.

Draw a picture of the boat in the storm.

Read Mark 4:39.

Draw a picture of the boat after the storm.

## Someone to Help

Sometimes God doesn't make our problems go away, but he sends someone to help us. For each problem, draw a line to the person who might be able to help.

If this happens...

Your dad loses his job

A bully is mean to you

Your homework is really hard

God might send...

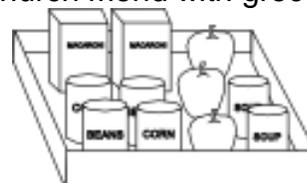
A new friend at school



A tutor to help with school work



A church friend with groceries





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# “Jesus Feeds 5000” Craft Ideas

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The feeding of the multitude (really 5,000 plus, since women and children weren't even in the head count) is a fun story to teach as well as a great one for craft possibilities. We celebrate God's provision and power, as He takes care of us and uses our meager offerings to do great things. With these crafts, explore how we can take simple everyday items like plates and bags, and turn them into a new creative reminder of God's ability to transform us! Here are some ideas to re-create the story.

## Bible Verses or Captions to Consider...

*Then Jesus declared, “I am the **bread of life**. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. -John 6:35*

*They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

*-Matthew 14:20-21*

*God takes the little bit you've got...and uses it to make a lot!*

*From just a little lunch, God made a whole bunch!*

*Give God what you have, and see what He can do!*

*God provides all we need and then some!*

## More Teaching Ideas on Jesus Feeding the Multitude

- See all the MTC [resources about Jesus Feeding the 5000](#)
- Watch this [craft demonstration](#) on our [YouTube Playlist](#)
- Compare the [children's sermon](#), [Sunday School lesson](#), [preschool lesson](#) and [kids church lessons](#) on this same Bible story for kids
- Don't miss [Jesus Feeding the 5000 coloring page](#)



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# Craft one: “Basket Case” Decoration

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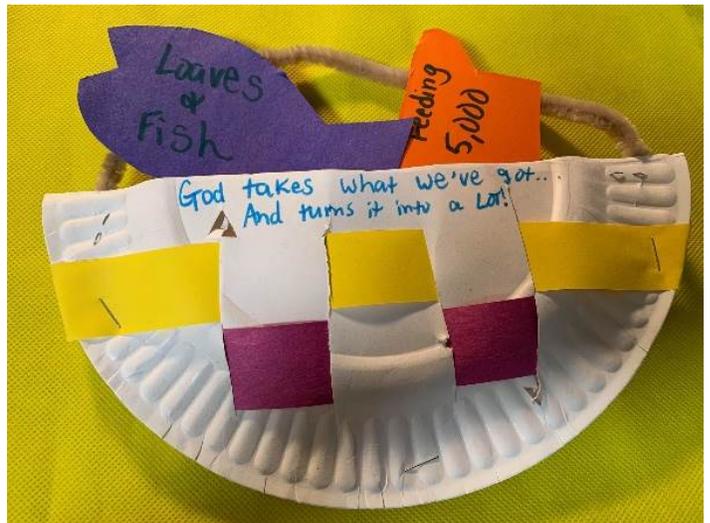
## You will need:

- Paper plates
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or staples
- Paper, cut into small strips
- Pipe cleaners



## Procedure:

1. Cut the plate in half, and cut vertical slits in each half, about an inch apart.
2. Take one strip of paper at a time and weave it in and out of the slits in the plate.
3. Once the weaving is complete, staple the plates together to make a “basket.”
4. Add decorations as desired. Attach a pipe cleaner handle.
5. Cut the paper into shapes of fish and bread loaves.
6. Add captions and verses. Tuck the fish and loaves into the basket, and hang to admire!



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# Craft Two: “Big Fish, Multiplied”

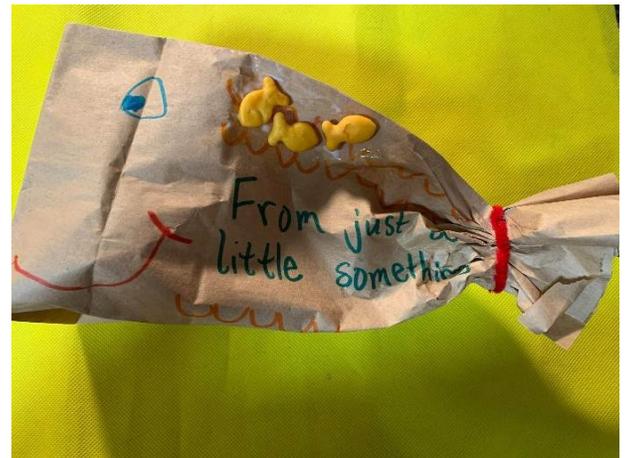
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## You will need:

- Paper bag
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Caption or verse
- Markers or crayons
- (optional) Goldfish crackers
- Glue
- Pipe Cleaner

## Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper bag to look “fishy”, with scales, facial features, or color as desired.
2. Cut several fish shapes out of construction paper.
3. Add a verse or caption, outside of the bag as well as on the fish.
4. Provide additional decoration as preferred, including gluing fish crackers to the bag.
5. Tuck the small fish inside the bag. Attach a pipe cleaner to create a “tail” look for the fish.



### Extra Activities and Craft Ideas:

- Use a lunch bag to make a “blessing bag” to give to someone else. Decorate the outside of the bag, and place small items inside like snacks, band-aids, soap, or small trinkets.
- Use a small box or paper bag to create a “basket”, and inside place Goldfish crackers or Swedish fish and cracker “loaves.” Decorate the outside.
- Make jewelry by stringing dry pasta shell “loaves” and paper fish onto yarn or ribbon.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May

2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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