

## FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

### Scripture:

John 6:1-13 (Matt. 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44,  
Luke 9:10-17)

### Materials Needed:

Pictures of story  
Can of sardines, five loaves of bread

### Memory Verse:

*Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me,"*

### Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Jesus tested Philip by asking where they would get enough bread, Philip didn't know and Andrew didn't think that a boy's 5 loaves and 2 fish was sufficient either, but Jesus gave thanks and multiplied the food, and afterwards the disciples gathered 12 baskets full.

To Realize—When one is doing a God-given task, and doesn't know where to get the resources, he should go to Jesus, knowing that He will supply all that he needs.

To Respond by—going to God for the resources for his God-given task.

### Setting up the Story:

What is your least-favorite part of school? (get answers...homework, tests...)

Someone said tests. Wouldn't it be nice if teachers did away with tests? I mean, why do teachers give tests anyway?!

Did you know that even Jesus gave tests? It says in John 6 that Jesus gave a test to his disciples, and it only had ONE question on it. What ONE test question do you think Jesus would give to his disciples? (get a few answers and then have students look in their Bibles.)

Scripture

### Telling the story:

- I. Jesus Asks Philip a Question
  - A. 5,000+ men
  - B. There for awhile=hungry
  - C. They don't need to go away: "You give them something to eat."
  - D. **"Where are we to buy bread that these may eat?"**
  
- II. Philip and Andrew Fail the Test Question
  - A. 200 denarii?!
  - B. "How man loaves? Go look."
  - C. Andrew: "Five barley

### As you tell the story:

Storytell background. Crowds had met them. Teaching all day. Getting late. Disciples wanted Jesus to wrap it up. Jesus said, "You do it." Then he selected lucky Philip for the test question. Look in John 6:5.

Imagine each person got a Happy Meal from McDonalds. How much would that cost? (try to figure out what a crowd of 5,000 would look like within the

loaves and 2 fish. What are these for so many?"

context of your community—how many congregations? How many students/parents??)

How do you think the disciples felt as they figured out the size of the crowd?

Who had given them this job?

Jesus! So He must have expected them to actually know the answer to the question and do the job. But they are stuck!

- III. Jesus Multiplies the Food
  - A. Everyone sit down
  - B. Jesus gave thanks
  - C. As much as they wanted
  - D. They were filled

Jesus decides to show them the answer: "Tell everyone to sit down."

- IV. Disciples Gather 12 Baskets Full
  - A. Jesus tells them to gather
  - B. 12 baskets=12 disciples

Why 12 baskets? One for each disciple. He was trying to see what they had learned: it was a test.

And then he had showed them the answer. And as they picked up the leftovers and started putting them in their baskets, I wonder if that is when the answer hit them. "Where are we to get the food to do the job Jesus gave us to do?"

### Concluding the Story:

Where DID they find the food to feed all those people? JESUS! It sounds simple, but who had given them the job? We don't have to feed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish, but we find ourselves in God-given situations that seem pretty overwhelming.

Maybe it looks like this:

"Where am I to find the time to do these tasks?..."

"Where am I going to get the energy to..."

"How can I do what Jesus is asking me to do?..."

What is the answer to those questions? JESUS. That isn't giving a trite answer. That is pointing us to where we need to run.

Is there something you need to ask Jesus for in order to do what He wants you to do?