

FEEDING 5,000

Scripture:

John 6:5-13; Matt. 14:15-21; Mark 6:35-44; Luke 9:12-17

Materials Needed:

A test paper
Calculator
Five poaches/small can of tuna in a bag
Pictures of story
Card with the word "JESUS" on it

Memory Verse:

My God will supply all your needs.

Philippians 4:19

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

To Know—When Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowds, and all they had was 5 loaves and 2 fish, they brought it to Jesus, and after He blessed it, it was enough to feed everyone (with leftovers!).

To Realize—When Jesus wants me to do something and it seems impossible or difficult, I can come to him for whatever I need to do the job He's given me.

To Respond by—going to Jesus for whatever I need.

Setting up the Story:

How many of you have had to take a test this year? Do you like to take a test? Sometimes tests make you feel nervous because you aren't sure what is going to be on the test. But teachers have to find out if we are learning what they are trying to teach us. Did you know that even Jesus gave His disciples a test? It says in the book of John that Jesus had been teaching a lot of crowds. Lots of people had gathered around him to listen to him teach.

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Jesus Tells the Disciples to feed the crowds
 - A. Great crowds had been following Jesus to listen to him teach
 - B. It was evening and time for dinner.
 - C. Disciples want the crowds to go home.

As you tell the story:

Show picture of Jesus teaching the crowds.

They were so eager to hear what Jesus had to say, they weren't even looking at what time it was! But the disciples were looking at the time because it was getting to be towards evening. And they were getting hungry! And what meal was everyone going to

D. Jesus asks a test question: “Where are we to buy bread that these may eat?”

E. Jesus tells the disciples to give the people something to eat

II. The Disciples don't have enough

A. Philip: the cost of the food would be more than 8 months wages.

B. Andrew: finds a boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish—“But what is this for so many?!”

need to eat soon? Dinner!
So the disciples want Jesus to send the crowds away. But Jesus give his disciples a TEST question. He didn't have it written down, but if it were written down, this is what it would look like: “Where are we to buy bread that all these may eat?” (show test paper with question written on it).

And then Jesus gave the disciples a VERY HARD job to do. Do you know what he told them to do?! He told them to feed those crowds!!

Wait a minute! They didn't have enough.

In fact, Philip was trying to figure out how much money they would need to feed 5,000 people. Imagine if we had to feed all those people. And we were going to take everyone to McDonald's to buy them a Happy meal. And if a Happy Meal cost five lira, and we had to buy 5,000 of them—that would mean (use your calculator to come up with the cost amount) we would need to spend 25,000 lira!! If your Daddy's had a good job, it would take about 8 months for them to earn all that money! Did the disciples have that much money? NO!

But who had told them to feed the crowd? Jesus did. So they had to come up with a way to feed the crowd.

Next, the disciple Andrew comes to Jesus and he has found a boy with 5 loaves and 2

- III. They bring what they find to Jesus
- A. Jesus tells the disciples to have the crowds sit down
 - B. There were about 5,000: they sit in groups of 50 and 100
 - C. Jesus takes the loaves and gives thanks to God; does same for the fish

- IV. Everyone gets fed—with leftovers!
- A. Jesus gives the bread and fish to the disciples to give to the people
 - B. Everyone eats as much as they want and are filled
 - C. Jesus tells the disciples to pick up leftovers
 - D. They get 12 baskets full! (one for each!)

small fish.

Show picture of Andrew and boy. Bring out bag and pull out five loaves and can of tuna.

Do you think this is going to be enough for all these people in the picture??

If I took this downstairs at lunchtime, do you think I could feed everyone in our school with just this?!

But Jesus knows what he is going to do. So he says, “have everyone sit down in groups of 50 and 100.”

Show picture of crowds sitting down.

Make motions of Jesus blessing food and then hand out little bits to helper, who gives them to the students.

Do you think there is enough food for everyone? But you said it wouldn't be enough! Why is it enough now? Where was the bread and fish coming from?

Oh...JESUS is the one providing it—so of course it will be enough for everyone!

In fact, Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that He would provide for them, so he told them to collect the leftovers. And each one had a basket and got a basket full of leftover bread.

Concluding the Story:

Jesus had asked a question at the very beginning of the story to test his disciples: "Where are we going to buy bread so these people may eat?" What was the answer to that question? Where DID the disciples get the food? They didn't go buy it...where had it come from?

If we had one of the disciples here today (have helper dress as disciple, or if you are telling this yourself, you can state this point) and I asked him, "What is the one thing you learned that day?" I wonder what he would say?

Disciple: "The job Jesus gave us to do was sooo big...we couldn't do it on our own. But we went to Jesus and he gave us what we needed. Boys and girls, when you have needs and you don't know what to do...go to Jesus and ask him for what you need. HE CAN PROVIDE AND HE WILL!