



BIG IDEA

Jesus can provide for our needs.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People: Matthew 14:13-21

LARGE GROUP ORDER

WELCOME, RULES & ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 min)

WORSHIP SONG (3min)

PASSING OF THE PEACE (1 min)

ATTENTION GRABBER (4 min)

THE BIG IDEA (1 min)

MEMORY VERSE (3 min)

PRAYER (2 min)

BIBLE STORY (6 min)

WORSHIP SONG (3 min)

OFFERING (during song)

DISMISSAL (1 min)





LARGE GROUP

WELCOME, RULES & ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 min)

WORSHIP SONG (3min) | “All Around The World”

PASSING OF THE PEACE (1 min)

ATTENTION GRABBER (4 min) | **What’s your favorite food?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to share their favorites in each food category: Meal, Fast Food Restaurant, Dessert, Breakfast Item, Flavor of Ice Cream.*
- We all have favorite foods. Is anyone feeling hungry now, after talking about all those yummy foods?
- **Today, we’re talking about a meal that Jesus provided for a big crowd of hungry people. All the food we love comes from God.**
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *You can turn this question into an activity for preteens. Sit them in a circle and tell the first one to name their favorite food. The next one will name the first person’s favorite food, then their own. The next person will name the first two, and so on. The person at the end will try to name everyone’s favorite food.*

Expanding Soap

- I love this story. I’m not Jesus, so I can’t make a bunch of food multiply, but I’ll show you something I can do. Let’s try an experiment to see something unexpectedly expand.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut up the ivory bar soap into six smaller pieces and put them on a microwavable plate. Heat the plate of soap in the microwave for 80 seconds. Open the microwave and see what happens.*
- **Did you expect the soap to expand like it did?**
- **Do you think the people in the Bible story expected the 5 loaves of bread and two pieces of fish to feed as many people as it did?**
- **How do you think the people felt when they saw this miracle?**

THE BIG IDEA (1 min) | **Jesus can provide for our needs.**

MEMORY VERSE (3 min) | **John 14:6**

I AM THE WAY (*hold one arm out to the side*)
THE TRUTH (*hold the other arm out to the side*)
AND THE LIFE (*point both arms up*).
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER (*shake one finger*)



EXCEPT THROUGH ME (*point up*).

PRAYER (2 min)

BIBLE STORY (6 min) | **Matthew 14:13-21**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- This month, we're learning about some of the unbelievable (but true) miracles of Jesus. Miracles are things that only God can do.
- **What was the miracle in today's Bible story?** The miracle was that Jesus took a tiny amount of food — five small loaves of bread and two pieces of fish — and made enough food to feed over 5,000 people! In John 6:9, we learn that the loaves of bread and fish belonged to a little boy in the crowd.
- **If you were in a crowd full of people, would you have shared your food? How do you think the little boy felt when Jesus used his food to do a miracle?**
- **What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?** It tells us He cared about the needs of His people, although He could have just sent them away.
- Instead of sending these people away, Jesus decided to take care of them. He taught them and healed them all day long until it was dinnertime and they were hungry.
- Back then, they didn't have pizza delivery or drive-through restaurants, so they needed food! But they had Jesus.
- Jesus cared about the hungry people in this story and He cares about hungry people today. Just like God provided for this group of people, He cares and provides for us today too.
- **What are some ways God has provided for you?**
- We can thank God for everything we have, because everything we have is a blessing from Him.

NOTE: *Keep in mind that some kids in your group may be in need. You may want to be prepared ahead of time to talk privately with kids who indicate they are in need and be prepared with some community organizations they can go to for help.*

OFFERING (during song) | UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

WORSHIP SONG (3 min) | "Let's Get A Little Crazy"

DISMISSAL (1 min)



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

REVIEW BIBLE STORY | Matthew 14:13-21

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- **What was the miracle in today's Bible story?** The miracle was that Jesus took a tiny amount of food — five small loaves of bread and two pieces of fish — and made enough food to feed over 5,000 people! In John 6:9, we learn that the loaves of bread and fish belonged to a little boy in the crowd.
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NOTE: *Keep in mind that some kids in your group may be in need. You may want to be prepared ahead of time to talk privately with kids who indicate they are in need and be prepared with some community organizations they can go to for help.*

- **What did Jesus use to feed all the people?** *(Five loaves of bread and two fish.)*
- **Why did Jesus do this miracle?** *(He had compassion for the hungry people.)*
- **What can we learn about Jesus from this miracle?** *(He is powerful and He can meet our needs.)*
- **How have you seen Jesus provide for you or your family?**
- **What is something you need God to provide for you?**
- **How can you thank God for the things He has already blessed you with?**

GAME/ACTIVITY | GAME/ACTIVITY | Guess the Baby Food

- Since we're talking about Jesus providing food, let's play a game about food.



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use masking tape to cover up the label on the baby food, so the kids can't see what flavor it is. Have kids use a new spoon for each new flavor. Have them try a spoonful of one flavor and then try to guess the flavor. Go through all 5 flavors.
- **Did anyone think it was easy to guess the baby food?** You're probably not used to seeing turkey and gravy or bananas look like *that*.
- Today, we've been talking about Jesus providing food for a big group of people. The way He provided might have been different from what the people were expecting, but we can trust God to provide for our needs, even if it looks different than we expect.
- Sometimes we want Him to give us everything just how we want it, but God might choose to give us different things.
- When God doesn't answer our prayers exactly the way we want Him to answer them, it's a chance for us to lean on Him and learn to be content with what we have.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Instead of eating baby food, try giving your kids with special needs some play food and letting them close their eyes and feel it (you could also use real pieces of fruit or vegetables) and guess what each item is just by feeling it.

Paper Bread

- Jesus did an unbelievable miracle when He took the little boy's lunch and fed over a 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hold up a piece of paper for the group to see. As you teach, cut off a corner diagonally and give the pieces you cut to kids in the room. Continue to cut off the corners a few more times and have the kids count the corners as they multiply.
- **How many corners do you see on this paper?** (Four)
- What if I wanted to give someone a piece of my paper and cut off a corner . . .
- **How many corners are there now?** (Five)
- How did that happen? The more I give away to others, the more corners there are! The same thing happened with Jesus — the more He gave away to feed people, the more there was to give away to even more people!
- **How do you think the crowd felt when Jesus passed out the food and more and more kept appearing?**
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Instead of paper, give your kids with special needs a piece of Play-Doh and let them shape it into bread or fish, then tell them to split it in half. Tell them to split it into smaller and smaller pieces and see how small they can get it.

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6

I AM THE WAY (hold one arm out to the side)
THE TRUTH (hold the other arm out to the side)
AND THE LIFE (point both arms up).
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER (shake one finger)



EXCEPT THROUGH ME (*point up*).

PRAYER

- **We've talked a lot of ways God has blessed us and provided for us!** Let's pray and thank God.
- Dear God, thank you for all the blessings you have given us and all the things you have provided for us. We love you, amen.

PARENT PICKUP

While waiting, the students can color, complete any unfinished activities, redo other games or activities, play Hangman or a different game on the board.



PRESCHOOL SMALL GROUP

WATCH VIDEO

SNACK & BIBLE STORY REVIEW | Matthew 14:13-21

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a snack (you could do Goldfish crackers and bread) to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!*
- **How many people were out in the dessert?** *(Over 5,000 people.)*
- **What were all the people doing?** *(Listening to Jesus teach and watching Him heal people.)*
- **What did Jesus do when the people were hungry?** *(He took five loaves of bread and two fish, and used it to feed the crowd.)*
- **How many baskets of leftovers did the disciples collect when everyone was done eating?** *(12 baskets full.)*
- **How do you think the people felt after Jesus performed this miracle?**

ACTIVITY/GAME | Big Foot Hop

- **Welcome to church!** Our series this month is called **Unbelievable** and we're learning about the **unbelievably amazing and true miracles of Jesus!** We've played with unicorns and dragons, and today, we're playing Big Foot games!
- **Does anyone know what a Big Foot is?** It's a made up creature that people say lives in the woods and hides from humans, and it is supposed to have giant feet. Let's play a game and pretend we have giant feet.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out several copies of the Big Foot Hop footprints and tape them to the floor, about a foot apart. Challenge the kids to hop from footprint to footprint.*
- It's fun to pretend with things that are not real, but the things we're going to learn about in our Bible story *are* real. We're going to learn about a really cool miracle Jesus did to feed people when they were hungry.

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EXCEPT THROUGH ME *(point up).*

ACTIVITY/GAME | Fish and Loaves Confetti

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out the Fish and Loaves Confetti printable.*



- **How many pieces of bread do you see on this paper?** Let's count them together. (*Count five loaves of bread.*) **How many pieces of fish do you see?** Let's count the fish. (*Count two.*) Do you think we can make it enough to pretend feed this entire class? What about our entire church (*if you happen to have more than 5,000 people in your church, you can use another example*). God multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to make it enough to feed more people than our entire church! Isn't that unbelievable?
- Let's break this apart and see how many pieces we can make.
- *Pass the paper around the class and let each kid tear off one small piece. If they tear off too big of a piece, that's fine, just use that for the next kid.*
- **We made a lot of pieces, but it still wouldn't be enough to feed 5,000 people. That would take a miracle! Jesus did an amazing miracle when He fed that many people.**

Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them how much Jesus provides for us.

PRAYER

- **We've talked a lot of ways God has blessed us and provided for us!** Let's pray and thank God.
- Dear God, thank you for all the blessings you have given us and all the things you have provided for us. We love you, amen.

PARENT PICK UP

- While waiting, the students can color, complete any unfinished activities, redo other games or activities, play with the toys in the room.