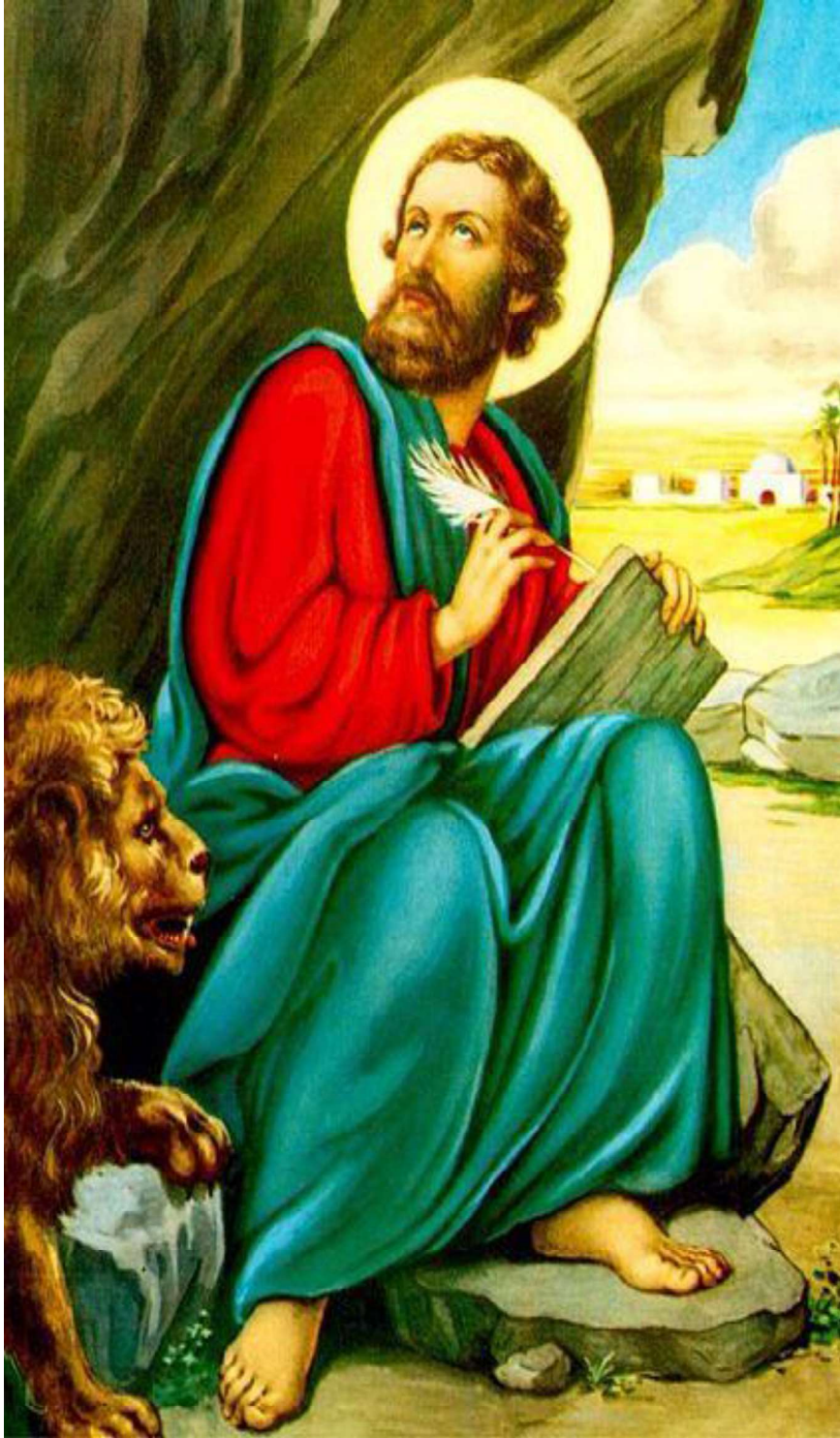


# The Gospel According to St. Mark

## Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry



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## Introduction

### The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle



An 8 minutes illustrative video that could be used by servants to prepare or to show the kids a part at the beginning of each unit. Use only till minute 8:20, as the last part is not verified.  
<https://youtu.be/HGHqu9-DtXk>

### Servant's preparation:

A link to the whole series of 22 sermons covering the whole book of St. Mark's gospel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

An introductory sermon to the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

### Who is St. Mark?

- ❖ He was born in Libya near Egypt to Jewish parents.
- ❖ He is a relative to St. Barnabas and to St. Peter, the disciple.
- ❖ He moved to Jerusalem with his family while Jesus was preaching.
- ❖ His house was the first church where Jesus instituted the Eucharist with His disciples.
- ❖ His Jewish name is "John" while his Roman name is "Mark".

- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

### Why do we see a lion in his icon?

- ❖ St. Mark attracted his own father to Christianity when he struck two hungry lions dead with the sign of the cross.
- ❖ He started his gospel by describing John the Baptist as a lion roaring in the wilderness and he also portrayed Jesus as the Divine Master serving with power like a lion.

### The message of the Gospel:

- ❖ He began his preaching with St. Peter in Jerusalem then joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey. But he left them and returned to Jerusalem. Later he traveled with St. Barnabas to Cyprus. Afterwards, St. Paul needed St. Mark with him and they both preached in Colosse (Col 4:10), Rome (Phil 24; 2 Tim 4:11) and perhaps in Venice, from which St. Mark proceeded to Libya his homeland.
- ❖ In 61 A.D. he went to Egypt and established the church of Alexandria which we all belong to. Then he preached in Rome with St. Peter.
- ❖ It is believed to be the oldest of the four Gospels written between the years 65 to 70 A.D.
- ❖ While in Rome, the people asked him to write a summary of what they had received by word of mouth, so he wrote it to the Romans after the death of St. Peter and inspired by his teachings.
- ❖ Since he wrote his gospel to the Romans, he did not include many prophecies from the Old Testament as opposed to the gospel of St. Matthew which was written for the Jews and which therefore included many of those prophecies. St. Mark also explained in his gospel to the Romans many popular Jewish words and traditions.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority and influence through war and violence, so he presented to them Jesus Christ as the true ruler over devils 1:27, disease 1:42, nature 4:41, plants 11:12-20, and the temple 11:33. Angels minister to Him 1:13, He is Lord of the Sabbath 2:28, He knows what's in the heart and mind of people 2:8, He speaks with authority 1:21, He feeds the multitude 6:30-44, and He is the destroyer of death 5:21-43. His authority is evident through love, service, humility, and through pain.



### 1- Unit 1: (Chapter 1-6)

#### Getting to Know Christ: Chapter 1:1-11

#### His Ministry in Galilee: Chapters 1:12-6:30

- 1) In chapter 1, St. Mark begins by describing Christ as a servant to mankind, sacrificing Himself, aiming to deliver us. That is why he does not detail the birth of Christ but rather focuses on His ministry.
- 2) John the Baptist prepares the road for Christ the Servant (Chapter 1)
- 3) Jesus served in Galilee, prayed for us in the desert, healed many on the Sabbath, in the house, by the sea, and wherever He went.
- 4) Jesus called others to preach with him (the disciples)
- 5) Resistance of His service (Chapter 2)
- 6) Jesus continued His preaching (Chapter 3)
- 7) The people marveled at His parables despite resistance from the scribes (Chapter 4).
- 8) He commanded the evil spirits, death, and disease (Chapter 5).
- 9) Strange behavior towards this Servant who is unique in His love and work (Chapter 6)

### 2-Unit 2:

#### His Retreat from Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)

- 1) Jesus left Galilee not to avoid trouble but to prepare his disciples' minds to accept the cross. He fed the multitude, healed whoever touched Him, comforted even the Gentiles.
- 2) St. Mark recorded many conversations and questions that revealed Jesus's person and mission in chapters 8 to 10.
- 3) Through His transfiguration, He acknowledged His kingdom.

### 3-Unit 3:

#### His Service in Judea chapter 10:

In this chapter, he provides us with life examples for the path of the cross.

- A. The difficult commandment (no divorce)

- B. Accepting children with love
- C. Wealth
- D. Leaving all to take up the cross
- E. Discarding the love of higher positions.

#### **4- Unit 4:**

#### **Crucifixion and Resurrection Chapters 11 to 16**

- 1) The events of the passion week,
- 2) His entry into Jerusalem (Chapter 11).
- 3) Resisting Him in Jerusalem (Chapter 12).
- 4) The cross and the signs of the end (Chapter 13).
- 5) The preparation for the cross (Chapter 14).
- 6) The events of the crucifixion (Chapter 15).
- 7) His resurrection declared the glory of this unique Servant, who is capable of rising from the dead.
- 8) The One who rose from the dead is still serving us, as He sent His disciples to preach and He is still serving His church.
- 9) He ascended to heaven so that our hearts may ascend with Him also.



## Chapter 6

### Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 6 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcSqRPiW3c&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=6>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o78igbnNk&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=7>

### Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions.

- ✓ Who is St. Mark? He was one of the 70 apostles whose house was the 1<sup>st</sup> church Jesus used and who later preached in many countries including Egypt where our Coptic church originated.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Romans
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? To show the great power of Jesus Christ who through His amazing actions demonstrated His Divine power.

### Remember:

Last lesson, we enjoyed talking about faith. We saw the great faith of the sick woman who touched Jesus' garment. We also saw the daughter of Jairus who died as Jesus was on the way to heal her, then He raised her from the dead because of her father's faith.

### Main points in the Chapter:


- 1) Jesus Rejected at Nazareth
- 2) Sending Out the Twelve
- 3) John the Baptist Beheaded
- 4) Feeding the Five Thousand
- 5) Jesus Walks on the Sea
- 6) Many Touch Him and Are Made Well



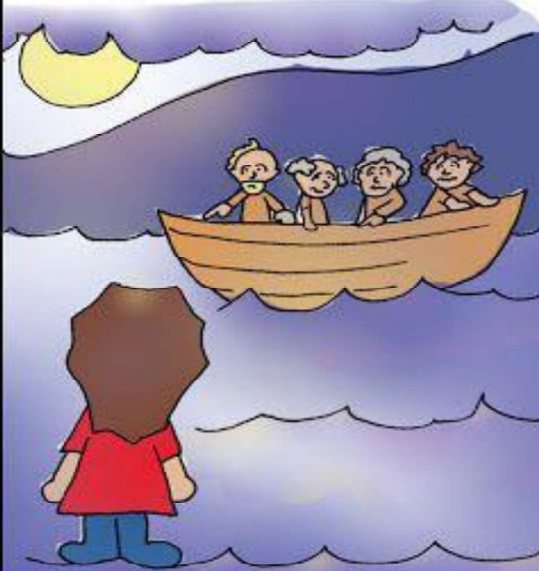
# Mark 6

(Jesus) saw a large crowd and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things... His disciples came to Him and said... it is... late; send them away so that they may go and buy themselves something to eat. But He answered them, "You give them some thing to eat!"... "How many loaves do you have?"... they said, "Five and two fish."

(Jesus) took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples...; He divided up the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up 12 full baskets of the broken pieces, and also the fish. There were 5,000 men who ate the loaves. v.34-44



Jesus made His disciples get into a boat and go ahead of Him to the other side... while... He left for the mountain to pray. When... the boat was in the middle of the sea... He came to them, walking on the sea;... they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out;... and were terrified... He... said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid." Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished... v.45-51



**Lesson overview:**

In a few minutes, briefly explain the main events of the chapter with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter.

We are still in Unit 1 where Jesus is serving in the northern part of Palestine. In this chapter, He was in Nazareth, His hometown, preaching and doing miracles, but many did not believe in Him yet. Jesus sent His disciples to many towns nearby to preach. The story of John the baptism is mentioned here when Herod beheaded him during Herod's birthday party. Finally, we will explore how Jesus fed 5000 men with little food.

**Goal we learn:**

In this chapter, you will focus on how Jesus cares about our bodily needs as well as our spiritual needs. “<sup>34</sup> And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd”. Jesus taught them lessons but also felt their hunger and did not want them to go home hungry. Jesus worries about every single detail in our lives not only our spiritual life, but also our growth, food, learning, families, friends, and relationships.

### **Lesson delivery idea 1**

#### **NEVER RUNS OUT**

*The power of the Holy Spirit is an everlasting gift that never runs out.*

#### **MATERIALS:**

Box of chocolates



#### **WHAT YOU WILL DO:**

You will display a box of chocolates and allow the class to pretend that the box never runs out. You will compare this pretend box of chocolate to Spiritual Gifts, or to the Gospel of Christ in that the power of the Holy Spirit never ends, and we are called to share these gifts with others.

#### **WHAT YOU WILL SAY:**

Look at what I have here. It looks like a regular box of chocolates, and it is. But for now, I want you to pretend that this particular box never gets empty. Every time you take out a piece of chocolate and eat it, another one is there to take its place. Sounds pretty good doesn't it? Now, you really love your box of chocolates. You treasure it. You can have as much as you want, whenever you want, and there is always more.

*(If you like, you can do a little sleight of hand here by appearing to take a piece from the box and eat it. Then show the box still full.)*

What would you do if you had a box of chocolates like this? Would you dare mention it to anyone, lest they think you're crazy? Would you keep it a secret so not to risk having someone steal it? Would you always keep it with you, or lock it in a safe when you didn't feel like having a piece of chocolate? Perhaps doing these things may be our tendency, but with a box of chocolates that never runs out, wouldn't it be better to share it with the whole world?

#### **Spiritual Gifts Application**

Spiritual Gifts are like this pretend box of chocolates. The Holy Spirit gives them to us freely, and as often as we use them. He gives them to us so we can share them with others. Like the famous Forrest Gump once said about a box of chocolates, “You never know what you're gonna get”, Spiritual Gifts are sort of the same way. There are many gifts, and God gives them to us freely as He chooses. He may give you one Gift for one particular situation, and a completely different Gift for another. All we need to do is use what He gives. When we do, the power of the Holy Spirit is carried to others, and His power never runs out.

**Read Mark 6:30-44 (Jesus Feeds Five Thousand)**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus continue to teach the people, although His disciples were tired and hungry? (*Jesus had compassion on the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He met their needs.*)
2. As it got late in the day, what did the disciples ask Jesus to do with the people? (*Send the people away to buy their own food.*)
3. How did Jesus reply to the disciples' request to send the people away? (*Jesus told the disciples to give the people something to eat.*)
4. How much food could the disciples find? (*Five loaves of bread and two fish.*)
5. What did Jesus do before distributing the food? (*Looked to heaven and gave thanks.*)
6. Did everyone get enough to eat? (*Yes, they all ate and were satisfied.*)
7. Was any of the food wasted? (*No, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of broken pieces of bread & fish.*)
8. Did Jesus feed the people spiritually or physically? (*He first fed them spiritually by teaching them many things. He then fed their bodies.*)

**APPLICATION**

When Jesus is involved in our lives even a little can go a long way. We should be careful not to waste that which the Lord has given us. In our reading today, we learned that no one that sought the Lord was sent away empty handed. All who came to Jesus were filled both spiritually and physically. Even today, there is no end to the abundance Jesus provides for those who sincerely seek Him.

Well, unfortunately all boxes of chocolate eventually run out. On second thought, for those of you who like chocolate a little too much, that may be a good thing. But it's good to know that the Power of the Holy Spirit is an everlasting gift, to all who share it with others. (*Share the chocolates with your students.*)

**Lesson delivery idea 2 [Skit, science experiment and discussion]****SKIT [JUST A LITTLE GAUZE]****ITEMS NEEDED:**

A clipboard

Test tubes

A test tube holder

**CHARACTERS:**

Dr. Christian- A science professor

Laura- A college administrator

*Dr. Christian is pouring colored liquids from one test tube to another. Laura enters with a clipboard.*

LAURA: Excuse me, Dr. Christian?

CHRISTIAN: Yes, hello?

LAURA: I'm Laura Money from the college department of purchasing and accounts.

CHRISTIAN: Well hello, Laura, it's nice to meet you.

LAURA: Dr. Christian, my boss sent me down here to see if there's anything you need.

CHRISTIAN: (*holds out two test tubes*) Here, hold these, please.

LAURA: But I—

CHRISTIAN: Just for a second.

LAURA: Um, okay.

*Laura sets down the clipboard and takes the test tubes.*

CHRISTIAN: Now whatever you do, don't mix them.

LAURA: Why not?

CHRISTIAN: Because those two will blow up this whole building.

LAURA: WHAT???

CHRISTIAN: Just a little science humor. I'm only kidding. Or maybe I'm not.

LAURA: Dr. Christian, I was asked to come down and see if there's anything you need.

CHRISTIAN: That's awfully nice of you to ask, but Jesus has given me everything I need.

LAURA: He has?

CHRISTIAN: Does that sound strange coming from a science teacher? I know many of my colleagues don't even believe in God, but I do! I love Him, and I know He is looking out for me. God is there when I need comfort and He's there when I need love. He's there when I am sick, and He's there when I need a friend.

LAURA: I see.

CHRISTIAN: Yes. ma'am, God has given me a family, good friends, good health, and a great dog. Have I told you about my dog, Einstein?

LAURA: No.

CHRISTIAN: He's a Labradoodle.

LAURA: No kidding.

CHRISTIAN: Laura, I appreciate your concern, but I have everything I need because I have Jesus.

LAURA: That's wonderful to hear. But I was asking if you needed anything for the lab.

CHRISTIAN: Oh, the lab?

LAURA: Yes.

CHRISTIAN: A box of test tubes, a gallon of sulfuric acid, and a little more gauze.

LAURA: Gauze, got it.

*Laura hands the test tubes back to Dr. Christian.*

CHRISTIAN: Thank you.

LAURA: No, thank you. It's good to know that Jesus can give me everything I need.

*Laura exits.*

CHRISTIAN: Hmm, should have asked for another test tube holder.

## **BIBLE SCIENCE: SODA GEYSER**

### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

A roll of Mentos            and 2 liters of Diet Coke

### **WEB LINK:**

<https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/original-mentos-diet-coke-geyser/>

**INSTRUCTIONS** - *Adapted from instructions by Steve Spangler Science.*

This experiment is going to make a big mess, so if possible, you may want to do it outside in the grass. Unwrap the roll of Mentos. Open the bottle of Diet Coke and set it on the ground. Drop the entire roll of unwrapped Mentos into the bottle. (A rolled-up piece of loose-leaf paper can help you make the perfect drop). Stand back and watch the fountain explode!

**LESSON:**

Would have thought that candy and soda could have such a huge reaction? Mentos aren't exactly the biggest candy on the market but mixed with a soda they create a huge eruption.

In the story of the feeding of the 5000, Jesus showed us that he can take something small and turn it into something big. He took one little boy's lunch and he fed thousands. He met the needs of the people, and in doing so, he showed us that he could meet all of our needs too.

What need do you have today? Do you need a friend? A little comfort? A little love? Jesus is there, and He knows your needs before you ask. Jesus will always give us what we need because Jesus is all we need.

**Discussion:**

Science means a lot of things to different people. Some people think of animals and biology when they hear the word science. Some people think of plants and photosynthesis. Some people think of astronomy or chemistry or physics. Some think of sending rockets into space or making airplanes fly. And then, there are some people who think of dropping mints into a bottle of soda. Science can teach us a lot about our world and the way things work. Thanks to science, we know that our bodies breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, while plants take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. We know why certain chemicals react with other chemicals, and we know how to make things like rockets and airplanes fly. Science is always asking and answering questions, and it's always teaching us new things. But as many questions as science has answered, the question of the soda and the Mentos is one science hasn't answered yet.

That's not because they haven't tried! As silly as it sounds, science experts have studied the reaction that takes place when candy and soda mix inside a bottle, and none of them can agree on why this reaction happens. Some people think it's a chemical reaction. That means two different things, like the mint and the soda, mix together to become something new. Other people think it's a purely physical reaction.

The candy causes the gases in the soda to make bubbles so rapidly, an explosion of water erupts as the gas tries to escape the bottle.

Whether it's a chemical reaction, a physical reaction, or something completely different, there's one thing we can all agree on. A bunch of tiny candies dropped into a small bottle created a BIG explosion of soda. And that big explosion is a visible picture of how God is able to meet all of our needs.

Today's story is about a day when Jesus saw a need and met it. He saw thousands of people who were getting hungry, and he made sure they all had a good meal.

**MAIN POINT**

It was late in the day. The people were hungry. The disciples saw this and told Jesus to send the people away. Jesus had come to serve the people and to meet their deepest needs. On that day, Jesus demonstrated his love by meeting the people's most basic need of hunger. Like the Mentos, He took something small, a little boy's lunch, and He made it into a meal big enough to feed a huge crowd.

Jesus was always meeting the needs of the people. He healed the blind. He cured the sick. He was a friend to the friendless, like the crooked tax collector Zacchaeus. He gave forgiveness to sinners.

That same Jesus is still meeting the needs of people like you and me. He can meet any need you have because Jesus is all you need.

### **DRIVE IT HOME**

What are needs? What are the things that we need every day? We need food. We need water. We need a place to sleep with a roof over our heads, and we need clothes. But that's not all we need. We also need love, friendship, and family. We need a listening ear when we have questions. We need wisdom when we have tough choices to make. We need comfort when our hearts are broken, and we don't know where to turn. Most of all, we need forgiveness for our sins, the things we have done to hurt God and other people.

Jesus came to die for our sins. Someone to bridge the gap between us and God is the biggest need any of us have, and the first need that Jesus fills. But Jesus doesn't stop there. Jesus can be a friend to the friendless. He can be a comfort to the broken hearted. He can give wisdom to those who seek it.

Jesus can also help us to figure out who we are and what our purpose is. Jesus can give us direction for our lives, and a special calling to serve Him. Jesus has given all of us gifts to use for Him. Just like that little boy with the lunch, we can give our gifts to Jesus, and Jesus can multiply them like the soda explosion we saw.

What needs have you brought with you today? Do you need a friend? Do you need love? Could you use some wisdom or comfort? Or do you just need a Savior?

Jesus can meet all those needs. He knows them before you even ask, and He delights to answer our prayers.

### **Lesson delivery idea 3: See attached Bible Fun lesson "A boy and His lunch"**

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:3335e3cd-1e75-42f2-ae57-b116ad4475be>

Lesson

9

All-in-One

BIBLE

ELEMENTARY

FUN

# A Boy and His Lunch

## Bible Verse

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16

## Bible Story

John 6:1-14

Once there were more than five thousand people who wanted to be with Jesus. Some were sick and wanted Jesus to heal them. Others wanted to hear Jesus talk about God and God's love.

When evening came, Jesus knew these people were hungry. Jesus asked his disciples to feed everyone, but they didn't know how to do it. "We didn't bring any food," they said, "and we don't have enough money to buy supper for this many people."

Then a little boy in the crowd said, "I have five loaves of bread and two fish. I'll share." But the disciples said, "That's not enough to go around."

Like the disciples, we often view life through the lens of limitations. We look at

the great needs in the world and feel inadequate to meet those needs. We focus on what we're lacking. We look at the impossible nature of a situation and say, "I can't do anything to make a difference. I don't have enough to offer."

But God invites us to look at life through a lens of abundance, generosity, and possibility. When we're faced with a difficult situation, we can offer to give and do what we can, regardless of how little it seems.

Our God is a God of miraculous power! God can use our gift, no matter how large or small, to help meet the needs of others.



## Jesus taught us to share with others.

If time is limited, we recommend those activities that are noted in **boldface**. Depending on your time and the number of children, you may be able to include more activities.

ACTIVITY	TIME	SUPPLIES
A Lunch for Sharing	10 minutes	Reproducible 9A, scissors, paper punch, masking tape, crayons or felt-tip markers, yarn
Multiply God's Love	10 minutes	Scrip, Loaves and Fishes Cards (Reproducible 9A), large brown grocery bag, folded newspapers, masking tape
<b>Bible Story: Jesus, the Teacher</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	None
Hidden in the Crowd	5 minutes	Reproducible 9B, crayons or markers
Sing the Story	5 minutes	None
Volleyball Verses	10 minutes	Bible, chairs, beach ball or balloon
<b>Share a Prayer</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	slips of paper, basket, pencils

JOIN THE FUN

BIBLE STORY FUN

LIVE THE FUN

91

# JOIN THE FUN

## Supplies

Reproducible 9A, scissors, paper punch, masking tape, crayons or felt-tip markers, yarn



## A Lunch for Sharing

Photocopy the lunch pouch and the loaves and fishes cards (Reproducible 9A) for each child. A *scrip* is a leather pouch. The boy in the Bible story might have carried his lunch in a scrip.

Greet the children as they arrive.

**Say:** Today we are going to hear a story about a special lunch and how it multiplied to feed more than five thousand people. We might wonder how that happened. But with God anything is possible. God took a small boy's gift and multiplied it many times. God can do that with what we have to share, too.

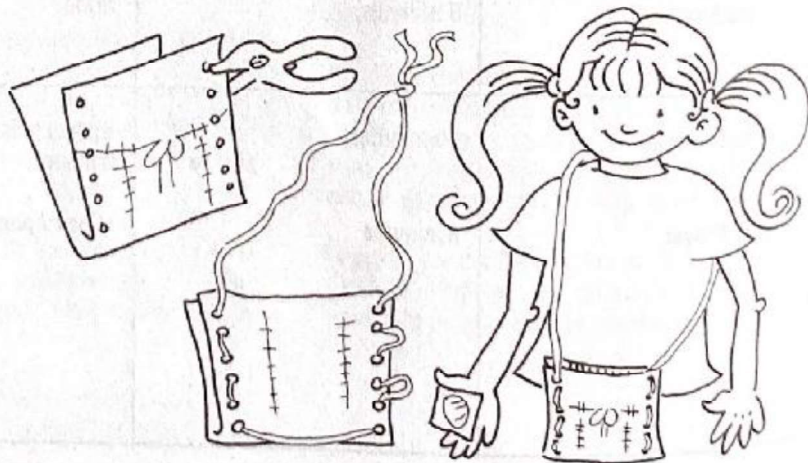


**Jesus taught us to share with others.**

Have each child cut out the scrip and the loaves and fishes cards. Let the children decorate the scrip and the cards with crayons or felt-tip markers. Set the loaves and fishes cards aside.

Show each child how to fold the scrip and punch holes along the edge. Cut the yarn into one-yard lengths, one for each child. Wrap the end with a piece of masking tape to make it easy to use. Then, leaving a twelve-inch tail, lace the scrip together. Tie the end pieces together, forming a handle that will fit easily over a child's head, and let the scrip hang down.

Have the children place the loaves and fishes cards in their pouches.



# Multiply God's Love

Bring the children together in a circle. Place the open grocery sack in the center of the circle. Put the folded up newspaper inside.

**Ask:** Does the sack look full or empty? (*It looks fairly empty.*) Is there room for anything else? (*Yes.*)

**Say:** Actually, we can fix it so the bag is full to overflowing without adding a single thing.

Unfold the newspaper and give each child several sheets. Have the children crumple the newspaper into balls and then place them in the sack. By the time all the sheets are added to the sack, it should be totally full.

**Ask:** What happened? (*The bag is now overflowing.*) Is there more newspaper in the bag? (*No, we just made it bigger.*)

**Say:** In today's Bible story, Jesus takes a small amount of food and multiplies it many, many times until there is enough to feed the whole crowd and have much left over. That's what happens when with God's power you share.

**Say:** Let's play a game. The object is for you to get rid of all of your loaves and fishes (Reproducible 9A). You must give them away.

Have the children stand up and remove the loaves and fishes from their lunch pouch. Put loops of masking tape on the back of each.

**Say:** When I say one at a time you will give away your lunch by taping it to someone else's lunch pouch. But other people will be giving away theirs at the same time. Let's see what happens.

**Say,** "Go," and let the children proceed to try to give away their loaves and fishes. After a few minutes call, "Stop."

**Ask:** What happened? (*We gave them away, but more kept coming back.*)

**Say:** That's what happens when you share. The more you give away, the more keeps coming back to you. Jesus taught the people this important lesson about sharing.



**Jesus taught us to share with others.**

## Supplies

Scrip, Loaves and Fishes Cards (Reproducible 9A), large brown grocery bag, folded newspapers, masking tape



# Jesus, the Teacher

by LeeDell Stickler

**Say:** You are going to help me tell the story. I will give you certain words to listen for. You must listen very carefully. When you hear these words, you will do certain actions.

Introduce the words and have the children practice the actions.

**Follow:** Everyone stands up and walks in place.

**Boat:** Everyone pretends to row a boat.

**Tired:** Everyone yawns.

**Hungry:** Everyone pats stomach and says, "Yum, yum."

**Five thousand:** Everyone grabs head and says, "Five thousand!"

**Money:** Everyone holds out hand and pretends to count coins.

**Share:** Everyone pretends to hand out objects.

**Miracle:** Everyone falls down to his or her knees and folds hands.

Everywhere Jesus went, many would **follow**. They would **follow** him down the road. They would **follow** him in the cities. They would **follow** him in the countryside. Jesus could never get away from the people.

One day when Jesus was particularly **tired**, he and his friends got into a **boat** to get away. But the people on the shore soon spotted the **boat** and began to **follow** along the lakeshore. When Jesus and his friends put the **boat** onto the beach, the people were there waiting for him.

Jesus felt sorry for them and did not send them away. Some had come a long distance just to hear him. So, he gathered them together and began to teach them. All day people long more and more people came to see him. Soon there were at least **five thousand** people.

Some people wanted Jesus to heal them. Some people wanted Jesus to bless them. Other people came to hear Jesus teach them about God.

When Jesus finished teaching the people, it was late in the day. Jesus

was **tired**. Jesus' friends were **tired**. The people were **tired**. And everyone was **hungry**.

"What are we going to do about food?" asked one of Jesus' friends. "It is getting late, time for the evening meal, and there is nothing here for the people to eat. I am certain that the people are **hungry**. Shall I send them into the nearby village for bread?"

"No," said Jesus. "We should provide for them. They are **tired** and **hungry**. They have come a long way just to hear me."

"We do not have enough **money** to buy bread, even a small amount, for such a large number of people. There must be **five thousand** people here. What shall we do?"

Just then the disciples heard a small voice. The men looked down and saw a small boy. He held out his leather lunch pouch. "Here," he said, "I will **share** my lunch."

The boy had come to see Jesus. He had **followed** along with the crowd. He had brought with him a small lunch of five barley loaves and two dried fish, just enough food for one small boy, hardly enough for the **five thousand** men,

women, and children who had gathered there. But still he held out his lunch to Jesus. He was willing to **share** what he had.

Jesus looked at the boy and thought for a moment. "Have the people sit down on the grass," said Jesus. Then Jesus took the boy's lunch. He gave thanks to God and broke the bread. When the food was **shared**, there was enough for everyone.

When the people had eaten all they cared to eat, Jesus told his friends, "Gather up what is left over. We do not want to waste any."

The disciples passed through the crowd, collecting the leftover bread and fish. There were twelve full baskets left over. It was a **miracle**!

When the people saw the **miracle**, they knew that they had seen something wonderful. They exclaimed out loud, "This is indeed the one who the Scriptures said was coming."

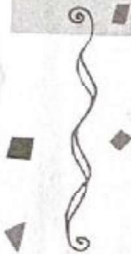
## Supplies

Reproducible  
9B, crayons or  
markers



## Supplies

None



## Hidden in the Crowd

Photocopy the hidden picture (**Reproducible 9B**) for each child. Have the children find the loaves and fish hidden in the picture. Let the children decorate the picture with crayons or markers.

**Ask:** Which person in the picture do you think represents Jesus? How do you think Jesus felt when he saw all the people following him? Which person do you think is the boy who shared his lunch? How do you think he felt when Jesus took his two fish and five loaves of bread? How do you think the people felt after they had eaten as much food as they wanted?

## Sing the Story

Sing the song printed below to tune of "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain."

### The Boy's Lunch

Oh, Jesus taught the people all day  
long.

Oh, Jesus taught the people all day  
long.

From the morning to the evening,  
From the morning to the evening.

Oh, Jesus taught the people all day  
long.

Oh, the people they were getting  
hungry now.

Oh, the people they were getting  
hungry now.

It was time to eat some supper,  
It was time to eat some supper.

Oh, the people they were getting  
hungry now.

Oh, Jesus said to give the people food.

Oh, Jesus said to give the people food.

Then he turned to his disciples,  
Then he turned to his disciples.

Oh, Jesus said to give the people food.

Then a boy said, "I will share my  
lunch with you."

Then a boy said, "I will share my  
lunch with you."

"I have barley loaves and fishes,  
I have barley loaves and fishes."

Then a boy said, "I will share my  
lunch with you."

Oh, Jesus told the people to sit down.

Oh, Jesus told the people to sit down.

Then he thanked God for the fishes.

Then he thanked God for the fishes.

Oh, Jesus told the people to sit down.

Now everyone was fed from that  
small lunch.

Now everyone was fed from that  
small lunch.

Just five barley loaves and fishes,

Just five barley loaves and fishes,

Now everyone was fed from that  
small lunch.

Twelve baskets were left over from  
that lunch.

Twelve baskets were left over from  
that lunch.

After everyone had eaten,

After everyone had eaten,

Twelve baskets were left over from  
that lunch.

Words: Daphna Flegal  
Words © 2001 Abingdon Press

## Volleyball Verses

Read Hebrews 13:16. Repeat the verse together: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16).

Count off by two's to divide into two groups.

Split an open area of the room into two sides for a "volleyball" court. Put chairs in the middle for the "net."

Have one team serve the beach ball or balloon. The receiving team tries to hit the ball back across the net and say the first word of the verse. Continue hitting the ball back and forth, adding another word each time until the verse has been repeated correctly.

## Share a Prayer

Say: Jesus cares about our needs, just as he cared about the needs of those five thousand people.



**Jesus taught us to share with others.**

Say: One way we can help and share with others is by praying.

Hand out slips of paper. Have each child write his or her name on a slip and fold the slip in half.

Place all the slips in a basket and mix them up.

Pass the basket around, having each person take a slip, checking to make sure they do not have their own name.

Instruct the children to find the person whose name they picked, and ask them if they have a special prayer request.

Encourage the children to pray for the person whose name they picked every day for a week.

Pray: Loving God, thank you for Jesus and the many ways he taught us about your love. I ask your blessing upon (say the names of each person in the group). Help them show your love to others by sharing. Amen.

### Supplies

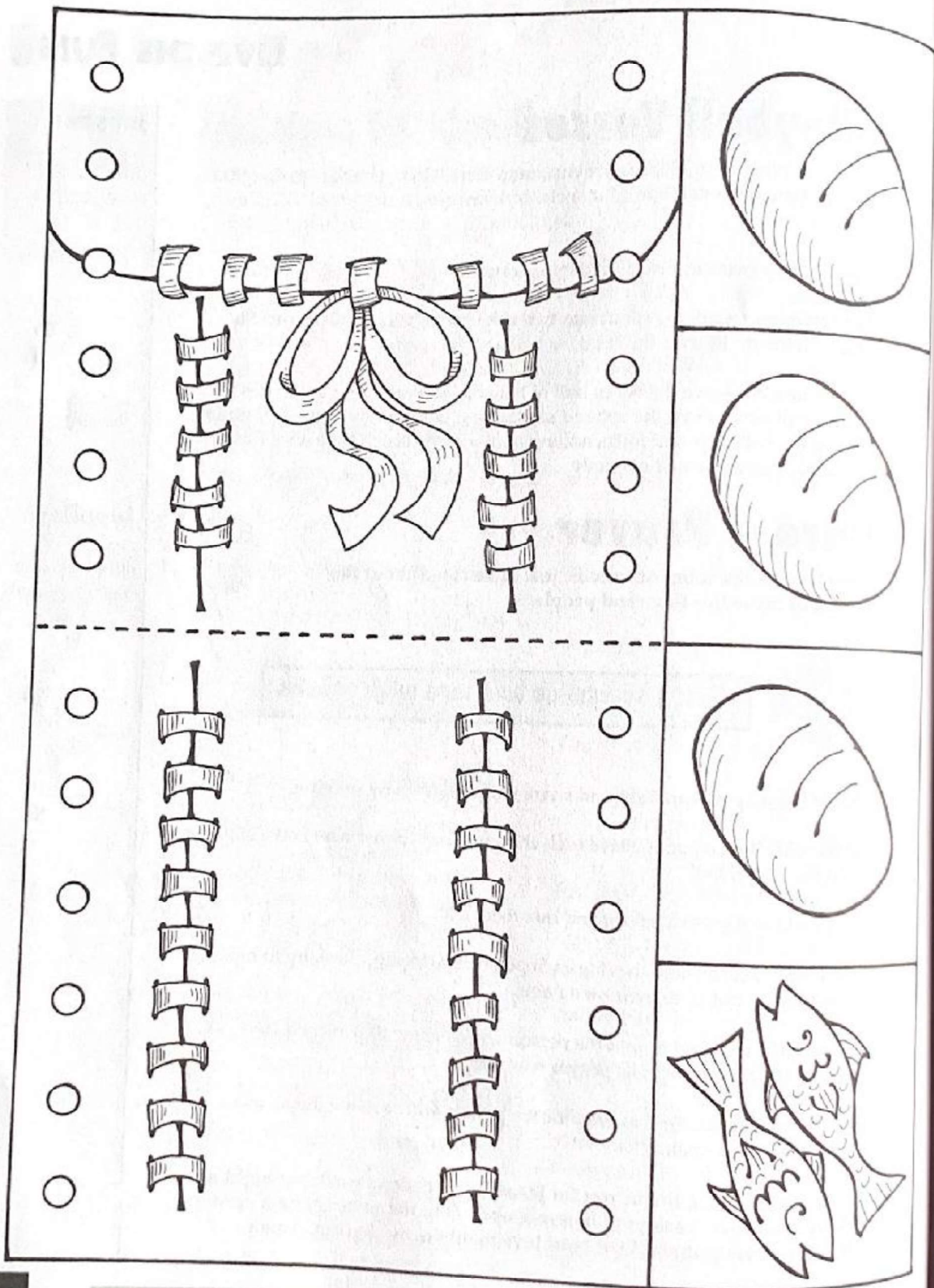
Bible, chairs, beach ball or balloon

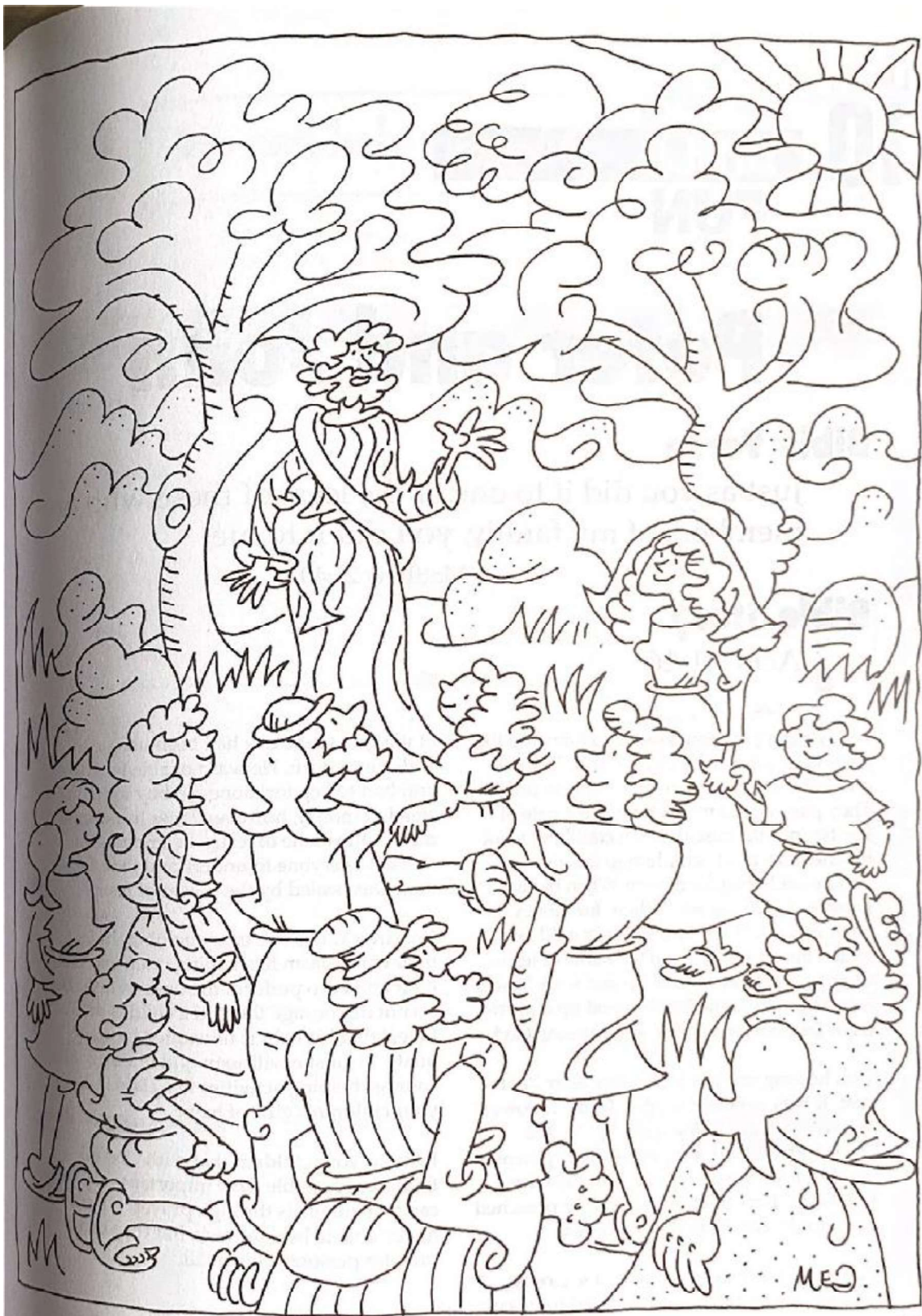


### Supplies

slips of paper, basket, pencils







**REPRODUCIBLE 9B**

**99**

**Memory Verse:**

***“Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number” Job 5:9***