

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
Bible Story: Jesus, the Teacher	10 minutes	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
Share a Prayer	5 minutes	slips of paper, basket, pencils

JOIN THE FUN

BIBLE STORY FUN

LIVE THE FUN

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.

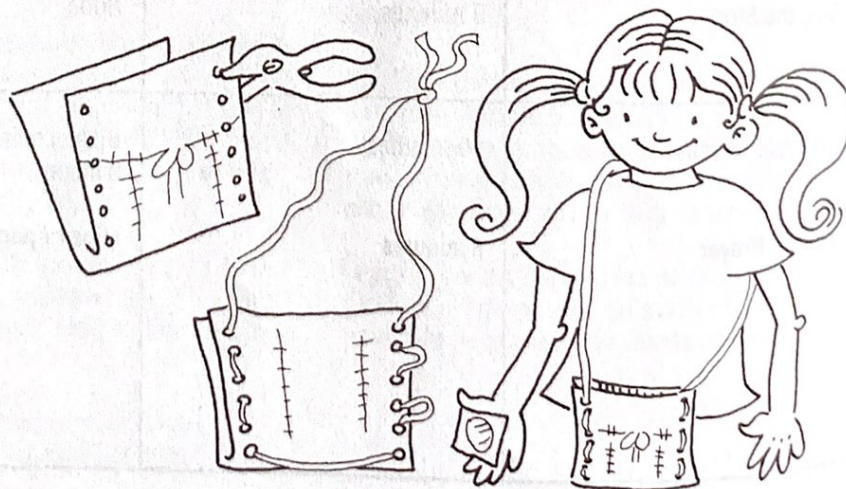


Jesus taught us to share with others.

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
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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.

Supplies

Bible, chairs, beach ball or balloon

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.



Supplies

slips of paper, basket, pencils

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.

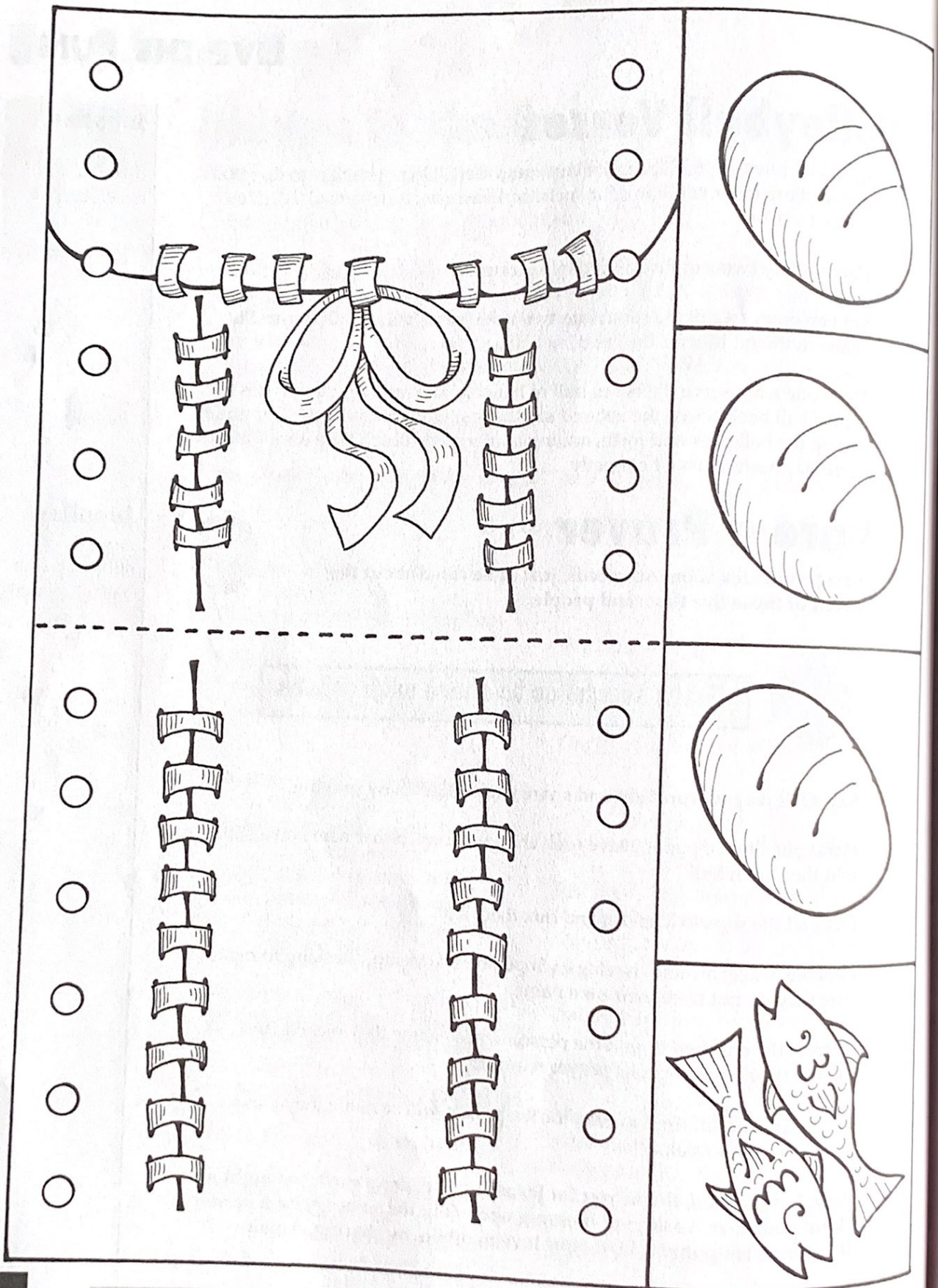
Place all the slips in a basket and mix them up.

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.





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