

The Gospel of Luke / Lesson 16

Feeding The 5,000

Luke 9:10-17

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 5:5

“So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them..”

The "Pressing" Game [Optional]

Pick a child to be "it." Have this child get up and walk around while the rest of the class follows him closely. The more crowded the child feels the more effective the game will be. Choose one or two children to be "it."

Explain to your class that Jesus was so popular with the people that they always crowded around Him, hoping to be close enough to hear Him or be healed by Him. Ask the children that were "it" to share with the class how it felt to be so crowded.

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal: Jesus is God who creates and blesses food and our life. We always come to

Him: Jesus is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

Today we are going to study about one of the most popular miracles that Jesus did. We are going to learn about the feeding of the 5,000. Though this miracle is wonderful in itself, we are going to learn a lesson from it that is much greater.

Introduction:

With nearly a year left before His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion, Jesus is at the height of His ministry. There is a huge crowd that follows Him everywhere He goes. As we have seen before, the people in this crowd are following Him for all kinds of different reasons. Some reasons are good and others are not. Since there were so many people following Jesus, the time He spent with the 12 disciples became very important.

We must understand that the religious leaders had been seeking to kill Jesus. Herod Antipus beheaded John the Baptist, and he was now seeking Jesus (Luke 9:7-9). As we begin our lesson, the 12 disciples have just returned to Jesus from their mission throughout Galilee of preaching, casting out demons and healing the sick (Mark 6:7-13). It is here in Galilee that we find Jesus united with the disciples making their way for a retreat to rest and spend time together (Mark 6:31).

For Servants: [From Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty; The Gospel of Luke; page 166]:

- This miracle happened after the selection of the disciples and their mission, so as to declare the purpose of the mission, which was to feed the hungry humanity.
- "What is the reason for the evangelist to mention the death of St. John the Baptist? Because Herod points to his death (Luke 9:9)? This may be because of the gospel that deeds the hungry multitudes began with the end of the old law. He has offered the food after the healing of the woman bleeding with the infirmity, as the church symbol, and after sending the apostles for preaching God's kingdom.

Luke 9:10-11

10 And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. 11 But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

So Jesus Started sending His disciples after giving them power over the demons to cast them out and authority to heal the sick, He sent them to peach the kingdom of heaven. They obeyed and went and preached, when they returned; they had some time with Jesus to tell what they have done and how did it go.

It is a blessing to serve others, and we need to work hard doing it. It is important to remember, however, that we also need a time of rest, time to spend quietly with God, receiving His refreshing and strengthening, and that is what the disciples have done when they returned to Jesus. [It is like a time of prayer now, right?]

As Jesus went across the sea, the people followed Him there, probably walking along the shore. St. Mark in his gospel tells us the crowd was like a flock of sheep without a shepherd. Sheep are easily scattered, and without a shepherd, they are in great danger. But Jesus had great compassion for the people as they came with anticipation to hear Him teach and heal the sick (Matthew 14:14).

Jesus welcomed the people and ministered to their needs as a loving Shepherd, filled with compassion. Jesus had shown His disciples that they must put others before themselves, for He had called them to be servants.

Luke 9:12-14

12 When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here."

13 But He said to them, "You give them something to eat."

And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." 14 For there were about five thousand men.

With the Passover at hand, many people from both near and far away places journeyed to Jerusalem to worship. Hearing that Jesus was in the area, the multitude sought Him with great expectation, hoping somehow that they would meet Him. Jesus knew He was their Shepherd and could teach them and meet every need in their life.

As the day drew to an end, the disciples, in their own wisdom, told Jesus to send the people away to find food and lodging. But Jesus would take this opportunity to teach His disciples a valuable lesson, preparing them for ministry.

Jesus would use the miracle of feeding the five thousand to increase the faith of His disciples; He also wanted to emphasize their mission that they are responsible for feeding those people spiritually. This way, when they came across something that was impossible later in life, they would remember that Jesus can feed us spiritually and physically as he did with the 5000.

Unexpectedly, Jesus told them to feed the crowd. This crowd had 5,000 men. Not including women and children, it probably totaled at 10,000 to 13,000 people. How would that be possible? How can they bring food enough for that big number? They told Jesus we only have five loaves and two fish; there is no way we can go buy food for all of them.

Luke 9:14-17

Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." 15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. 17 So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

In an orderly fashion, Jesus had the crowd sit in groups of fifty. After the disciples gave the little bit of food to Jesus, He blessed and broke them. He then placed the food into the hands of the disciples to give to the people.

What do learn from Jesus?

- Pray before and after we eat.
- Ask Jesus to bless everything we have and He will.
- What ever we have in our Life; give to Jesus and ask Him and He will bless us and our life.

Why did Jesus Give the blessed food to His disciples first?

- He wanted to teach them to serve; that they would always take from His hands and give to the people; teaching only the right teaching from God.
- He wanted to teach them that He is the source of all blessings
- Once they had given Jesus what they had, He multiplied it and gave it back. Jesus would supply, but the feeding would be done through the disciples. Feeding as many as 15,000 people was no big deal for Jesus, but it was a big deal for His disciples

to learn that they could always place their shortcomings and impossibilities into His hands. Jesus makes possible the impossible.

This was not a light meal; the people were filled, which means they were stuffed. Jesus had not only met their needs physically but also spiritually.

Jesus had supplied abundantly, but He did not want to waste anything. Jesus is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). We also need to be good stewards of what the Lord has blessed us with as He does not want to waste anything.

Servants!!!; please make sure to confirm with the Children that this is a Miracle and that Jesus did that because He is God

For Servants: [From Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty; The Gospel of Luke; page 168]

The disciples when they received the blessing from the hands of the Savior, this didn't only feed everyone, but what remained were twelve baskets full of fragments. To each of them then is a basket, as practical evidence of God's deed to them. When the believers offer others, they get satisfied, and their hands are filled with the Lord's blessings. This means that the giving increases the Lord's blessings in our life.

[Activity] The "Guess Who" Game

Tell your class that you are going to reenact some prayers from different characters in the Bible that faced impossible situations. Pretend to pray to God as Sarah who was very old and waiting for the promise of a child, Daniel in the lions' den, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo, Queen Esther, King David, Gideon, Mary, etc...

Have your children raise their hands when they think they know who you are and pick one to tell after a little while. If the child is right, go on to the next character. If the answer is wrong, keep going until someone gets it or you feel the need to tell the class.

Explain to your class that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. If He could help all of those people in the Bible with their impossible situations, He is certainly able to help us with ours.

Application:

Ask the children to write on a small paper whatever they need to be blessed and let them know we will put it on the altar; in the hands of Jesus to take care of.

Examples: bless my parents, bless me, bless my brother and sister. Bless my studying and give me success, bless my bible readings, bless my friends, bless my church, bless my beloved servants..... etc.

Revision Questions:

- How many people were there? 5000
- How many loaves of bread before the miracle happened? 5
- How many fish were there before the miracle happened? 2
- How many baskets of the leftover fragments were there after the Miracle? 12
- Why was Jesus able to do this Miracle? Because He is God
- What do we learn from that Miracle?

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that Jesus our God is our provider, he blesses us and blesses our lives and everything we do.

Email to Parents

Dear Parents,

In the lesson this week, we learned about the time when Jesus fed over 5,000 people with only two loaves of bread and two fishes (John 9:10-17). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. It is exciting to know the God who can do the impossible. Even when it seems like a situation may be impossible, God can always change that situation and help His children. Whether it is multiplying fishes and loaves or calming storms, Jesus is very much in control. He wants us to know that and trust in Him with any problem that may come into our lives. He loves His children very much, and He loves to help us. What a blessing to be able to serve such a great God.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

Activity Pack:

<https://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/Curriculum/Original/Curriculum/CURR197.PDF>

Video options:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDp3HW4cES4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLgsGyAbYTc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7rKIz2TQ2E>

Song in a video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDehU31b7-U>