

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)

This story is about a miracle. If you don't know what a miracle is, you should by the end of this story. Just remember, only God can do miracles!

Jesus sent his twelve disciples out into the country giving them power to heal sick people and tell others about God's love. When the disciples returned, they met with Jesus to tell Him about all the people they talked with and had healed. They were very excited to tell Jesus about their adventures! Jesus wanted to hear all their stories so he said to them "Come with me and we will find a quiet place to talk and get some rest".

So Jesus and the disciples went away by themselves in a boat across the sea. The problem was many people saw them leaving and went after them, getting to the other shore before them.

When Jesus and the disciples arrived, they saw the large crowd. Jesus felt love for these people because He knew they needed a teacher and someone to believe in. Knowing the disciples would understand, Jesus began teaching the crowd many things.

It was getting late in the day and none of the people had supper yet. The disciples came to Jesus and said, "There is no food around here and its already getting late. Maybe we should send the people away so they can go to the surrounding towns and get themselves something to eat."

But Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples didn't think that they understood Jesus right and said, "We can't feed all these people, we would have to work almost a year to pay for all the food!"

While the disciples were talking to Jesus, one of the disciples named Andrew noticed a young boy walking by with a small lunch. He stopped the boy and asked him what he had then quickly ran over to the disciples and said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many people?"

Hearing this, Jesus smiled and said, "Ask everyone to sit down."

There was lots of grass to sit on so everyone was seated -- all five thousand of them. After everyone was seated, Jesus took the loaves of bread and thanked God for it. Then the disciples passed around the bread and everyone could take as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

Remember, these were five small loaves of bread and two small fish, only enough for a boy to eat. There were five thousand people all eating from this boy's small lunch, and they could eat as much as they wanted. Five thousand! That's a lot of people!

After everyone was full, Jesus asked the disciples to gather all the food that was leftover so nothing would be wasted. After they gathered all the baskets of food, they counted

them up. There were twelve baskets still full with bread and fish from the little boy's small lunch. The boy's lunch barely filled one of the baskets before Jesus touched it, and that is a miracle! After the people realized what had happened, they said to each other, "This must be an important person sent from God." He was much more than that!

COLORING PAGE

Color the fish and the loaves of bread. Talk about the story and sharing. How well do you share? Do you share your toys? Your food? Would you have shared your meal with Jesus?

ACTIVITY

Get your playdough out!! Let's make some loaves of bread and fish, or any other food you like! As you complete each piece of playdough food, place it on the "mat" of open hands. Pray for those that do not have enough food each time you place some play food in the hands.

BIBLE VIDEO LINK-Craft idea!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh_ZCcaNyX7e_dXsMCUIqLJBfcWLFhV2d

Video Story Link-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak_zipTFvVk

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

This week's community activity is making a loaf of bread and delivering it to a neighbor or family member! Remember, there is no gift too small for Jesus to use through us. Let them know you will be coming over and drop it off at their doorstep. They will be delighted to find something that you made!

Homemade Italian Bread (Mom's Italian Bread from Taste of Home)

Ingredients

- 1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
- 2 cups warm water (110° to 115°)
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 5-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Directions

- In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add the sugar, salt and 3 cups flour. Beat on medium speed for 3 minutes. Stir in remaining flour to form a soft dough.

- Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.
- Punch dough down. Turn onto a floured surface; divide in half. Shape each portion into a loaf. Place each loaf seam side down on a greased [baking sheet](#). Cover and let rise until doubled, about 30 minutes.
- Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400°. With a sharp knife, make four shallow slashes across top of each loaf. Bake 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.
- Deliver one loaf to a neighbor and keep the other to go with the dinner recipe next!

MAKING MEALS TOGETHER

If your child enjoys kitchen time, here is a great dinner recipe they can help with.

Cornflake Crusted Baked Cod (from thespruceeats.com)

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound cod fillets
- 1 cup crushed cornflakes
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 egg
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Directions

- Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees
- Oil a baking sheet
- In one bowl, combine the cornflakes and melted butter. In another bowl, combine the mustard, egg, and salt and pepper, and mix it together thoroughly.
- Dip each cod filet in the egg mixture, shaking off the excess, and then into the cornflake and butter mixture, turning to ensure the whole filet is coated. Shake off any extra flakes and place on the prepared baking sheet.
- Bake 15 to 20 minutes, until the fish is opaque throughout and flakes easily with a fork. The baking time will depend on how thick the fillets are. Check at 15 minutes. If not done, continue baking, checking every 2 minutes until done.

Serve with a vegetable, and your loaf of bread!

PRAYER

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God, thank you for giving us food and ways to share with other people.

Thank you for making great things out of small things.

Thank you for miracles. Thank you for your love

We love you, God! In Jesus name, Amen!