



# “I Was Hungry...”

## Feeding the 5000

John 6:1-14

# Level B

Ages 7-10

**Series Theme:** You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.

**Lesson Focus:** The Lord asks us to serve others in natural and spiritual ways. By doing this we also serve the Lord.

**Reading Summary:** Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee. A great multitude followed Him up on to a mountain because they had seen Him heal the sick. Jesus and His disciples sat down. Seeing a multitude coming, Jesus asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for them to eat?” Philip answered, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough to feed them.” The disciple Andrew said, “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” About five hundred people sat down. Jesus took the loaves and the fish, gave thanks, and gave them to His disciples to distribute. When the people were filled, He asked the disciples to gather the remaining pieces. They gathered twelve baskets of leftover fragments. Then the people said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

<b>Lesson 1</b>		<b>Materials Supplied</b>	<b>Materials Needed</b>
<b>1. Welcome Warm-up Activity</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Cooperative Activity</b>	<b>Hunger Help</b> directions p. 8	snack food—e.g. raisins or grapes—in a bag, tape
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	<b>Read the Word and Talk About It</b>	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 8	Bible or copy of John 6:1-14
<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	<b>Act It Out</b> recreate the story through book-in-hand theater using simple props and food	<b>Jesus Feeds the Multitude</b> directions p. 9 <i>Jesus Feeds the Multitude</i> pp. 11-12	five “loaves” (pieces of bread, pita bread, naan, or crackers), two fish (plastic, goldfish crackers, or sardines), baskets (twelve if possible), blue sheet or piece of fabric for the Sea of Galilee <i>optional</i> : simple costumes
	<b>Make</b> make a simple basket filled with bread and fish that seem to multiply	<b>Multiplying Bread and Fish</b> directions pp. 9-10 <i>Basket Template</i> p. 13 <i>Bread and Fish Templates</i> p. 14	scissors, tape, markers <i>optional</i> : pencils, additional pieces of blank paper
	<b>Coloring Picture</b>	<b>Feeding the 5000</b> p. 15	crayons, markers or colored pencils
<b>4. Wrap It Up</b> (2-3 minutes)	<b>Memory Verse</b> introduce the memory verse for the week	<b>Memory Verse</b> <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 16	

# 1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

## Hunger Help

*Supplies:* food—e.g. raisins or grapes—in a bag, tape

*Preparation:* Place food in the bag. Tape the bag to the door or wall so that children are not able to reach it without using a chair.

Welcome the children. Tell them you will be starting with a game. The idea is to reach the food in the bag without using furniture. Let the children try to reach the bag individually. When they give up, divide them into groups of three and have them try again. Encourage them to help each other, e.g. two children lock hands together to create a step and the third child is boosted up to reach the bag. Once the bag is retrieved, share the food inside.

Today we are starting the first lesson in a series on helping others. When the Lord was in the world He told us six ways we should help others. Our first story is about helping people who are hungry.

## 2. Focus on the Word

**Read:** John 6:1-14. There are many teaching pictures online, e.g. [www.bitly.com/SMJohn6](http://www.bitly.com/SMJohn6).

**Why did such a large crowd want to see the Lord?** They had seen His healing miracles and wanted to go to Him. **Where were the Lord and the disciples?** On a high mountain.

**Why was the disciple Philip worried when he saw a large crowd coming?** It was late, and he knew people would be hungry. They did not have enough food for so many people.

**Who had food?** A boy had five barley loaves and two fish.

**How many people needed food?** About five thousand.

**What was the first thing that the Lord told people to do?** Sit down on the grass.

**What did the Lord do with the loaves and the fish?** He blessed them, and then He gave them to His disciples to give to all the people.

**What did they do with the fragments or pieces that were left when everyone had eaten?** They gathered them up into twelve baskets.

**This was a miracle. The Lord makes everything in nature—including the fish and the grain used to bake the bread. So He could make more and more food as it was needed. He makes all of our food too—which is why we thank Him at meal times.**

**The Lord gives us another kind of food for our minds and spirits that is even more important than the food we eat—goodness and truth from His Word. This is because one day our bodies will die, but our spirits will live on for ever. We can think about this spiritual food when we say the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread."**

**The Lord gave instructions for six ways to serve others. The first kind of service was to feed the hungry. What did the Lord mean when He said that when we serve others we are also serving Him?** Since all life comes from the Lord when we help others we are also helping the Lord.

**What are some of the ways you can help others who are hungry?** Offering others food before eating yourself, sharing whatever you have, giving food or money to organizations that feed hungry people.

# 3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

## Jesus Feeds the Multitude

Act out the story of Jesus and His disciples feeding a crowd of 5000 people. Actors read from their scripts as they move about. *Note:* roles require varying reading skills—from no reading (boy, most disciples) to proficient reading (narrators).



1. How many people sit around the table during a meal with your family? Imagine how big the table would have to be to feed 5000 people!
2. In our story the Lord asked His disciples to help Him feed 5000 people. The story takes place by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus and His disciples crossed the sea and as they landed, a crowd of people came to see the Lord because they heard that He healed the sick.
3. Assign reading and acting roles. If you don't have enough students, combine the three narrators into one. Distribute props. *Optional:* hand out costumes.
4. Give a copy of *Jesus Feeds the Multitude* (pp. 11-12) to each child who will be reading.
5. Act out the story.

### Materials Needed

*Jesus Feeds the Multitude* pp. 11-12, for each child, blue cloth (sheet) for the Sea of Galilee, twelve baskets, five "loaves" of bread (crackers, bread, Naan, or pita bread), two fish (goldfish crackers, plastic fish, or sardines) *optional:* simple costumes, e.g. large T-shirts with waist ties

### Prepare in Advance

Purchase bread and fish. Gather props and a blue sheet or piece of fabric for the Sea of Galilee. Set up the room by moving aside furniture to create an open space for acting. *Optional:* gather costumes.

Choice

## Multiplying Bread and Fish

The Lord gives us all so many gifts—more than we can count, so many that they seem to multiply. Make a simple basket filled with five loaves of bread and two fish that unfold to reveal more.



1. Introduce the idea that the Lord provides for us by giving us each gifts. Have students brainstorm what some of their gifts are. These might be friends, family, food, home, school, etc., but also talents or abilities.
2. We serve the Lord when we share our gifts or use them to help others. Ask for examples of how gifts can be shared. In our story, the young boy shared his loaves and fish to help the Lord feed the 5000 people. This project will help remind us of the story and, hopefully, also of the many things the Lord gives us.
3. Distribute the two template pages (pp. 13-14) and show your sample.
4. Make the basket first. Fold along all the dotted lines. Then cut along the solid dark lines. Slip the flaps on the side pieces under the ends and

### Materials Needed

*Basket Template* p. 13, *Bread and Fish Templates* p. 14, scissors, tape, markers *optional:* pencils, additional pieces of blank paper

### Prepare in Advance

Create a sample to show.

## Multiplying Fish and Bread *continued*

- tape them together to make the corners. The basket pattern can be on either the inside or the outside.
- Now make the bread and fish. Cut out the strips along the heavy dark lines. Fold along the dotted lines. Cut out around the bread and fish, being careful not to cut through the folds.
  - Tape the two bread strips together like an accordion. Do the same with the fish strips. Additional bread and fish strips can be made by tracing, folding and cutting additional blank pieces of paper as desired.
  - On the blank outlines of bread and fish, write down some of the gifts the Lord has given you or draw pictures of them.
  - When all the strips have been taped and folded together, place them side by side in the basket, as shown in the picture on the previous page.
  - Tape the bottom of each strip to the bottom of the basket. Five loaves and two fish are showing, but when you lift the strip up out of the basket, more appear! When we use the Lord's gifts to help others, He can make them multiply in our lives.



### Coloring Picture: Feeding the 5000

Hand out copies of *Feeding the 5000* (p. 15) for children to color.

#### New Church Concept Numbers

Five signifies a little.  
*Apocalypse Explained*  
548:9

Two signifies the state which precedes the completion of regeneration. *Arcana Coelestia*  
900

When a person is regenerated...the good deeds of charity shine out in the affections of the external person, and the truths of faith in his memory, increasing and multiplying in each case. *Arcana Coelestia* 984

#### Materials Needed

copies of *Feeding the 5000* p. 15; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

## 4. Wrap It Up

### Memory Verse

The children will add a new phrase of the memory verse each lesson as they build to reciting all of Matthew 25:35-36. Read the phrase below aloud. Invite the children to repeat it after you and then have them say it on their own. To learn as a song with actions, watch the video online at [www.bitly.com/ForIWashungryMV](http://www.bitly.com/ForIWashungryMV). The video repeats three times for easy sing-along learning.

**For I was hungry and you gave Me food.**

Matthew 25:35

### Closing

This week, try to remember that each time you are helping someone else, you are also helping the Lord—because He is with each person.

**Give a *Parent Note* (p. 16) to each child as he or she leaves.**

# Jesus Feeds the Multitude

**Characters:** 1st Narrator, 2nd Narrator, 3rd Narrator, Jesus, Philip, Andrew, Other Disciples, Boy, Crowd of People

**Props:** Five “loaves” (crackers, pita bread, slices of bread), two fish (goldfish crackers, plastic, sardines), baskets (12), blue sheet or piece of fabric to represent the Sea of Galilee

**Optional Costumes:** large t-shirts, scarves, shawls, etc.

**Set-up:** Spread out a sheet for the Sea of Galilee on one side of the room. Start with Jesus and His disciples on the far edge of the Sea and the crowd of people on the other side with more room.

**1st Narrator:**

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee.

*Jesus and Disciples*

*Jesus and His disciples get in a tight group, as if in a boat, and cross the Sea of Galilee together. They step out on the opposite shore. They start walking toward the top of a “mountain.”*

**2nd Narrator:**

Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He done to those who were sick.

*Crowd of People*

*Crowd begins to follow Jesus and His disciples at a distance.*

**3rd Narrator:**

And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

*Jesus and Disciples*

*Jesus and His disciples sit down on the top of the mountain.*

**1st Narrator:**

Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a crowd of people coming, He said to Philip,

*Jesus*

*Jesus looks up and turns to Philip.*

**Jesus:**

“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”

*Jesus points to the crowd that is coming.*

**2nd Narrator:**

But this He said to test him, for He knew what He would do. Philip answered,

*Philip shrugs his shoulders.*

**Philip:**

“Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.”

**3rd Narrator:**

Andrew said to Him,

*Andrew and the Boy*

*Andrew and the Boy stand up and face Jesus. The Boy has a basket with five loaves and two fish in his hand.*

## Jesus Feeds the Multitude *continued*

**Andrew:** *Andrew points to the bread and fish. The boy goes to Jesus.*

*Boy* “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but how can that be enough for so many people?”

**Jesus:** *Jesus motions everyone to sit down.*

“Make the people sit down.”

**1st Narrator:** Now there was much grass in the place. So about 5000 people sat down.

*Crowd of People* *The crowd sits down.*

**2nd Narrator:** And Jesus took the loaves,

*Jesus and Disciples* *Jesus raises the bread. Everyone bows their heads as He blesses it*

and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples,

*Jesus gives the bread and fish to Philip, Andrew and other disciples.*

**3rd Narrator:** and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

*Disciples* *Disciples share the bread and fish with all.*

**1st Narrator:** So when they were filled, He said to His disciples,

*Disciples* *Disciples return to stand with the Lord.*

**Jesus:** “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”

**2nd Narrator:** Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

*Disciples* *Disciples pretend to gather all bread and fish that have not been eaten.*

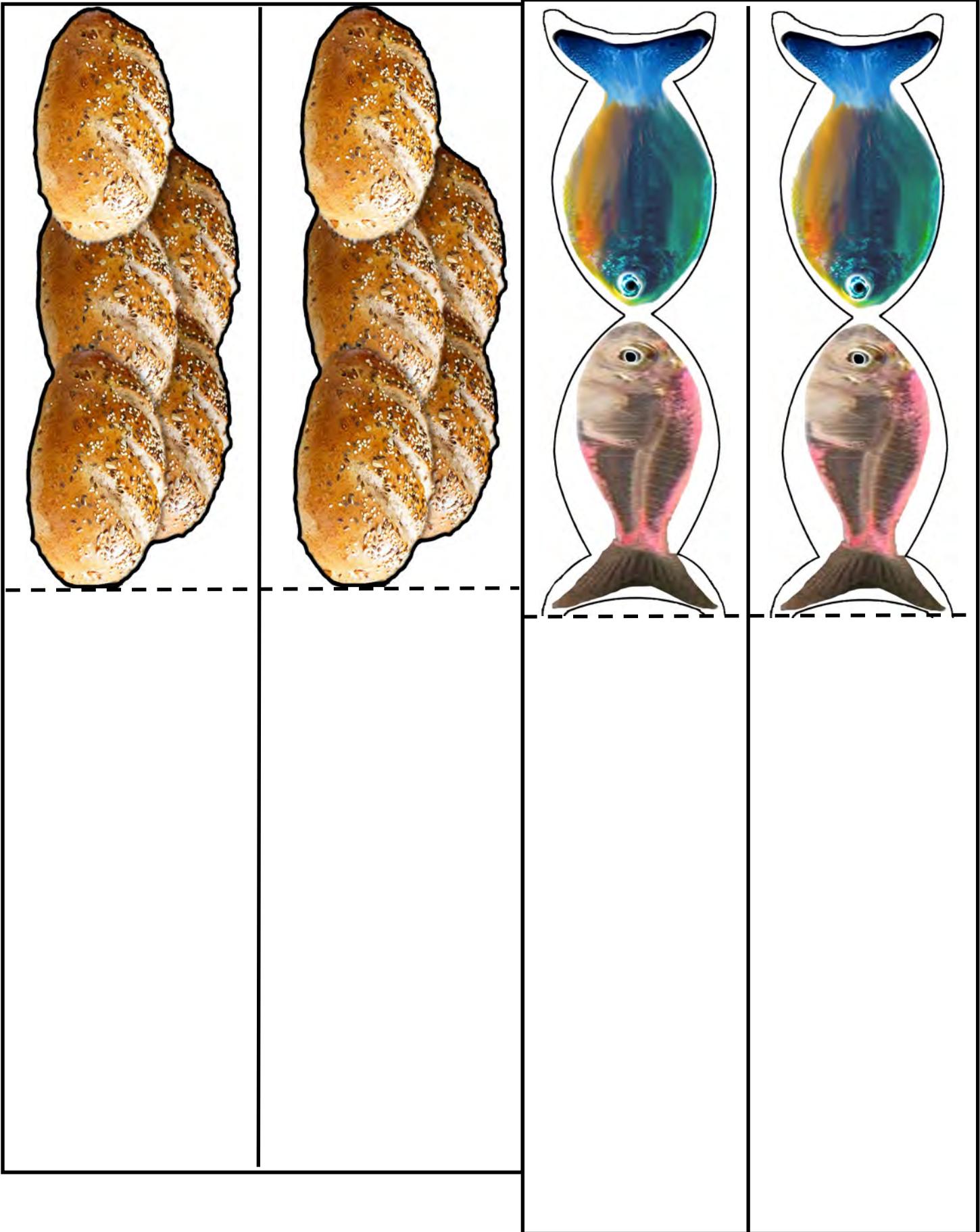
**3rd Narrator:** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said,

**Crowd** *The crowd all raise their hands in praise of Jesus.*

**of People:** “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”



Basket Template





## Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

### PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

We are learning about some miracles and parables of Jesus on the theme of serving others. This overall theme is taken from the parable of the Sheep and Goats from Matthew 25. Today we learned about the miracle of Jesus feeding 5000 people.

We will be adding a new phrase to our Memory Verse, Matthew 25:35-36, each lesson. Please support your child's learning by saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtimes, or before bed. There are two videos to help your child learn:

[www.bitly.com/ForIWashungryMV](http://www.bitly.com/ForIWashungryMV) (song with actions) or [www.bitly.com/ForIWashungry](http://www.bitly.com/ForIWashungry) (longer version of song).

### Memory Verse

For I was hungry and you gave Me food. (Matthew 25:35)

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