

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 18
Feeding the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:14-21)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons; to strengthen the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- B. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.
- C. The Lord gives us food for our minds so that we may grow strong spiritually. In this story the bread is the good and the fish is the truth that the Lord gives us.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Today's lesson is about another miracle that the Lord did. Do you remember what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing that the Lord does to teach us a spiritual lesson)
 - 2. Can you remember some of the miracles that we have talked about this year? (Turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana [Lesson #8], healing the leper and healing the centurion's paralyzed servant [Lesson #14], raising from death the son of the widow of Nain [Lesson #15], and raising from death Jairus' daughter [Lesson #17])
 - 3. In today's lesson the Lord Is going to make very little food miraculously become enough food to feed five thousand people!
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read aloud Matthew 14:14-21.
- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. How did the Lord feel when He saw the great multitude [crowd of people]? (He was moved with compassion for them. That means He was sorry for them and wanted to help them.)
 - 2. What did He do to help? (He healed those who were sick.)
 - 3. When it was evening, the disciples were worried about the multitude's getting hungry. It was late, and they were far from home and far from food. What did they want the Lord to do? (Send the people away to the villages to buy food.)
 - 4. What did the Lord say? ("They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.")
 - 5. What food did the disciples have? (5 loaves of bread and 2 fish)

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6. What did the Lord do with the food? (He blessed it and broke the loaves and gave it to the disciples to feed the people.)
7. How many people were fed? (Five thousand)
8. Was there enough food to go around? (Yes, and the leftovers filled 12 baskets.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Many people saw the Lord perform this miracle—five thousand people! They must have been very surprised. But the Lord has all power, and He created everything to begin with, so He was able to feed all the people.
2. The Lord gives us our food, too. We don't see Him giving it to us, but He is the One who sends the sun and rain to grow our food, and He created the plants and animals to provide us with food, clothing, and shelter. The Lord gives us everything we need for our natural life.
3. The Lord also gives us food for our minds to help us grow strong spiritually. We find this food in the Lord's Word. When we pray, "Give us our daily bread," we are asking for this kind of food - true ideas from the Word and good feelings that make us want to use those true ideas in our lives.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Consider how the Lilies grow," HYMNAL #227 (the Lord gives us everything we need).
2. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," (see Lesson #12).

B. Activities

1. This story could be dramatized since there are many parts (more than five thousand!) and plenty of action, and some dialogue is given.
2. The children could have bread and fish for their refreshment. The loaves of bread were probably small, round barley cakes, and the fish were likely small and dried.

C. Project

1. A collage of happy faces (to represent the multitude), five loaves of bread, and two fish. The Lord can be omitted or included full figure or face only.
2. Draw a picture of the Lord feeding the five thousand. This took place on a deserted mountain that was quite grassy. It was near the sea. There were the Lord, His disciples, and many men, women, and children; there were the bread, fish, and baskets for leftovers.

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3. Give children sheets of paper with "Give us our daily bread" on them. Decorate the sheets with wide border designs of bread loaves, fish, and happy faces.
4. "Multiplying the Loaves and the Fishes" project described in *Sunday School Activity Book* for Lesson 127 (white volume).

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the Lord feeding the five thousand people.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Volume 5, "The Loaves and Fishes" (Mark 6) pp. 80-96. (The Matthew account is not covered in the BIBLE STUDY NOTES. The major difference between the two accounts is that in Matthew the Lord heals the sick in the multitude, and in Mark He teaches the people.)
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. IV, Matthew 14:1-21. (Skim past the death of John the Baptist.)