LESSON 4: FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND

AIM: To show that Jesus was moved by compassion to provide both spiritual and physical food for His people through miraculous means.

MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.” (John 6:35)

Write the verse on either a bread or fish shape

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION: Drink Can Bowling

Write each word from the verse in felt pen onto paper strips and attach each one to an empty drink can. Set up the cans at one end of the room and give children turns of rolling a tennis ball down to the cans, knocking them over and repeating the verse each time until all the cans are down.

STORY: Mark 6:31-44

Jesus was becoming famous through the land of Israel. People heard of His miracles and came to Him constantly until He did not even have time or privacy to eat a meal with His disciples. So He suggested that it was time for them to have a rest.

They got into a boat and headed for a lonely spot, but the people saw them leaving and ran ahead of them, bringing even more people with them and arriving ahead of Jesus and the disciples.

As Jesus landed, He saw the huge crowd waiting for Him. Although He was very tired He was not angry or upset because He loved the people and knew that they needed His
teaching. The people sat down on the hillside and listened to Jesus. He taught them about the things of God all day. As evening drew near the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to send the people away so they could get to the neighbouring villages to buy food. But Jesus told the disciples to feed the people themselves. They were astonished at Jesus’ suggestion because there were at least 5,000 men, not counting women and children. Where would they get enough money to feed such a huge crowd?

Then Jesus asked them to go and see exactly how much food they had. The disciples came back with only five loaves of bread and two small fish. Surely this would not be enough to feed more than a couple of people!

Jesus was not concerned about the small amount of food. He organized the people to sit in groups, and taking the loves and fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, thanked God and began to break the loaves and fish into pieces. As He broke them more food appeared - it was as though he was multiplying the food over and over again.

Before long everyone was eating and they continued until they were quite satisfied. There was even food left over!

Jesus also knows what we need and is always working for our good. He can take what we consider to be something small or useless or worthless and make it into something wonderful and worthwhile. He can take small children’s lives and make them into great men and women of God.
GAME: NUMBER HUDDLES
Make a large number cube using foam rubber. Choose a child to throw the cube in the air and the number which is up when it lands is the size of the huddle that the children must form. Continue for a time limit or until all children have had a turn at throwing the cube.

ACTIVITY:

How to make a loaves and fishes mobile

YOU WILL NEED:
- coat hanger
- thin card
- cotton
- pens or crayons
- piece of garden wire

1. Cut out and colour two fishes and five loaves
2. Punch a hole in each
3. Thread cotton through and arrange on the hanger and wire
4. On the back of the fishes and loaves, write:
Jesus wished to spend a little time away from the crowds, so He and His disciples went by boat across the Sea of Galilee to a quiet place. However, it soon became known where He was going, and thousands of people poured out of towns and villages to meet him. Some had walked a long way. When Jesus saw them, He was moved with compassion and as he walked among them, he answered their questions and healed those who were sick.

Towards evening the disciples said, 'We're out in the country and it's getting late. Send the crowds home so they can get some supper.' But Jesus said, 'There's no need to send them away. You give them supper.' 'But there are more than five thousand people here!' exclaimed the disciples. 'All we have are this boy's five loaves and two fish.' Jesus said, 'Bring them here.' Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the boy's five loaves and two fish, lifted His face to heaven in prayer, blessed and broke the bread, then told the disciples to give food to every man, woman and child present.

The disciples did as he asked, and were astonished to find not only that there was plenty for all, but that afterwards, twelve baskets were filled with the leftover food.
JESUS FEEDS the 5,000

Jesus fed over five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Some words from this story are hidden in the basket. Try to find all the words listed below.

- TWELVE
- BASKETS
- FIVE
- LOAVES
- LOAVES
- LOAVES
- FISH
- FISH
- DISCIPLES
- GRASS
- PRAY
- EAT
- FULL
- MEN
- WOMEN
- CHILDREN
- GIVE
- FOOD

What is wrong with this picture? Can you find ten mistakes and circle them?

ANSWERS: Two suns, can of soft drink, boot, three loaves and three fish, apple, picnic table, girl bringing food, butterfly's wings, sail shaped different in water reflection, watch.
CROSSWORD

Across
2. The people all ate ________ and fish.
3. Water-dwelling creatures with fins.
5. The color of leaves in the summer.
6. To consume food.
8. Jesus blessed the five ________ of bread. Mark 6:41

Down
1. What you cut with a lawn mower.
3. Three plus two equals ________.
4. The number of baskets of leftover food. Mark 6:43
7. Opposite of none.
"Loaves and Fishes" Basket
(20-30 minutes)

Materials
- Basket Pattern
- raffia
- spring-type clothespins
- brightly colored poster board

Standard Supplies
- construction paper
- pencil
- felt pens
- glue
- scissors
- measuring stick

Preparation: Trace Basket Pattern onto poster board—one basket for each child. Cut out baskets. With point of scissors, score along dotted lines and bend flaps up to make sides of basket (sketch a). Cut raffia into 3 foot (90-cm) lengths—several for each child. Cut construction paper into 1 x 3-inch (2.5 x 7.5-cm) strips—five for each child.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:
- Letter "Jesus Cares for Me" in center of basket.
- Glue end of raffia length inside basket (sketch b). Weave raffia around the inside of one flap of basket and outside the next (sketch b). When one raffia length is completed, glue the end to the poster board and glue on a new raffia length. Continue weaving until raffia is ½ inch (1.25 cm) from top of basket. Cut raffia and fasten end with glue.
- Finish off top of basket by gluing on folded strips of construction paper (sketch c).
- Use clothespins to hold paper in place as glue dries (sketch c).

Simplification Idea: Use thick craft yarn or rug yarn instead of raffia.

Bible Bits: One time when Jesus was speaking to a large crowd of people, a little boy gave Jesus something to help feed all the people. What did the little boy give Jesus? (His lunch of five loaves and two fish.) Why do you think Jesus performed a miracle by multiplying the little boy's lunch? (Volunteers answer.) Jesus loves us and will always take care of our needs.

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LOAVES & FISHES BASKET
Help the boy with the loaves and fish to find his way through the maze to Jesus (Mark 6:31-44)
"I am the BREAD of LIFE.
Whoever comes to me will never go hungry." Jn 6:35