

*Get Ready!*

## Let's Do Lunch

By: Marsha Crockett



### Text

John 6:3-14

### Key Quest Verse

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion” (II Corinthians 9:11).

### Bible Background

Jesus was always the center of attention. Many persons from many villages followed Jesus and His disciples everywhere they went. They wanted to hear His words, see His wonders, and experience His love. All day long, the multitude had been with Jesus in a solitary place on a grassy hillside, overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Now they had become hungry and were far from home. Jesus looked upon them and had compassion for them. A boy had a basket of five loaves of barley bread and two fishes. This was the only food found anywhere by the disciples. The boy gladly made his food available to the Lord. Jesus first lifted His head toward heaven and prayed to His Father in heaven. Then, in this amazing miracle, Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed the 5,000. Jesus continually broke the bread and divided the fishes. More than enough was provided. In fact, twelve baskets of surplus food were gathered by the disciples after everyone had finished eating. Jesus always works in an orderly way. He told the disciples to arrange the people in groups of fifty. No doubt, they reclined on the grass like they would in a Roman and Jewish dining room. On three sides of a rectangle area, they reclined as if they were on couches or cushions facing the open central area. The disciples could then serve them with food, entering the area from the open fourth side. The discovery of Pompeii in southern Italy, enables us to know what Roman homes were like in New Testament times. Buried by the eruption of the volcano, Mount Vesuvius, August 24, 79 A.D., Pompeii was preserved by cinders and ashes like a time capsule city. Since 1748, Pompeii has been in the process of being excavated. Dining rooms and wall frescoes in the houses uncovered enable us to know much about life in Bible times. Dining rooms were called tricliniums, indicating use of three sides of a table. Some leaders probably would have tossed the broken bread and pieces of fish into the air and let the multitude scramble to get something to eat. Jesus, on the other hand, would never do that. He did all things decently and in order. Avoiding chaos and confusion, His activities were characterized by order, calmness, and peace. An inspiring concept is involved in the three L's. The Lad shared his Lunch with the Lord. Place whatever you have in your hands and life into the hands of the Savior. Wonderful results will multiply.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** God uses their small gifts in mighty ways.

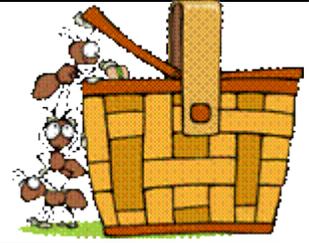
**Feel:** Honored to join Christ in His work.

**Do:** Find ways to serve others in Jesus' name with a generous heart.

**Leader's Devotion**

In reading the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, we learn much about faith, giving our all to Jesus, and serving others. But John 6:11 reminds us of one more important lesson. If we want to be fed and spiritually nourished by Christ, we must be willing to give Him our undivided attention by slowing down and sitting at His feet. “. . . Those who were seated . . . [received] as much as they wanted.” If Jesus came to you and asked, “How much of me do you want?” how would you answer Him? Does your schedule allow you to slow down and feed on Christ's presence in prayer? Do your priorities leave room for you to feed on God's Word? Does your life reflect how you've rested in His love? If need be, get out your calendar, Daytime, or Palm Pilot and schedule some “down time” with Jesus. Then consider how He satisfies your hungry soul.

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**Get Set!**

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**Option A****PICNIC FUN**

**Materials:** Blanket, picnic basket, napkins, snack (Optional: Bring in artificial trees, plants, rocks, and any other outdoor items to create a picnic feel.)

As the children arrive, have them work together to move tables, chairs, and other furniture to the sides of the room. They will create an open space to spread out a blanket where everyone will sit picnic style. Once everything is in place and the children are seated ask, **Okay, now who brought the food for our picnic?** Someone may have a piece of candy or gum. Ask if they would be willing to share it with the entire class. After attempting to split any items the kids come up with, pull out your picnic basket and look inside. Have a small piece of food (a slice of bread or a couple of crackers). Talk about whether this would be a very enjoyable picnic. **This is the same problem the disciples faced one day when thousands of people followed Jesus on a grassy hillside. Let's share a real snack as we listen to the story from God's Word.** Prior to reading the story from a modern translation, pass out small baggies of goldfish and oyster crackers, drinks are optional for the students to enjoy while they listen.

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

Get Set!



**Option B**

**READER'S THEATER**

Explain to the students what reader's theater is: This is a form of a play but is performed with scripts and presented much as a choir would present a song. Some parts are meant to be read "solo," others in unison. If you don't have enough children to assign the parts to, they may each take two or more parts as needed. There are many styles of reader's theater. In the most traditional style:

- Readers are arranged in a row or semicircle, sitting on high stools or standing.
- Scripts are often set on music stands
- Readers look straight out toward the audience or at an angle, rather than looking at each other
- Characters "exit" by turning their backs to the audience
- Scene changes (jumps in time or place) can be shown by a group "freeze," followed by some kind of collective shift

"A Boy Who Cried, Lunch!"

Reader 1: **One day Jesus walked up a mountain and sat down with His friends.**

Reader 2: **But, when they looked up, they realized they weren't alone. There was an enormous crowd of people who also wanted to be near Jesus.**

Reader 3: **"How will we feed all these people, Philip?"**

Reader 1: **Jesus' question was only a test for Philip. Where would his faith lead?**

Reader 4: **"I don't know what we'll do, but even if we worked full time jobs for eight months we wouldn't have enough money to buy food for everyone!"**

Reader 2: **What else could they do?**

Reader 5: **"Lunch . . . I have a lunch!"**

Reader 1: **Andrew heard the boy who cried "lunch." He looked at the boy's lunch wrapped in a cloth. It was only two little fish and five loaves of bread.**

Reader 6: **"Jesus, I know this probably isn't much help, but . . . this young boy has a few pieces of food to offer to you."**

Reader 3: **"These will do. Thank You, God, for this mighty feast, Amen. Now, have all these people sit down in the grass."**

All: **And he gave to those who were seated as much as they wanted.**

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**Get Set!**

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**Option B****READER'S THEATER Continued**

Reader 2: **Loaves of bread,**

Reader 1: **And salty fish.**

All: **Plenty for everyone until they were all sleepy and full.**

Reader 2: **But, that's not all.**

Reader 3: **"Gather up the leftovers. Don't let anything go to waste."**

Reader 4: **So, the disciples borrowed some baskets, one for each disciple, and began to walk among all the people picking up the leftovers.**

Reader 5: **One little lunch filled 5,000 people plus 12 baskets left over.**

Reader 6: **When we give our all, we're rewarded in wonderful ways.**

Readers 1-3: **"You will be made rich in every way . . ."**

Readers 4-6: **" . . . so that you can be generous on every occasion."**

All: **A glorious day . . . a delicious lunch . . . a marvelous miracle . . . an amazing, loving Savior.**

Practice the Reader's Theater a couple of times. Arrange ahead of time to let your class perform this reader's theater at the end of your class time for another class or even for the congregation.

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

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**Get Set!**

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**Bible Story**

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**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Read the Bible story found in John 6:3-14. Then ask the children the questions at the bottom of the page about this story.

**John 6:3-14 reads, “Then Jesus went up on the hillside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Phillip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, ‘Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!’ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ‘Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?’ Jesus said, ‘Have the people sit down.’ There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, ‘Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.’ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, ‘Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.’”**

**Questions: What did Philip say when Jesus told him to get food for the crowd? Did he show that he had faith? What could Philip have said or done to show that he did have faith? Imagine that you were the boy who had brought his lunch from home. How would you have felt if Jesus asked you for the lunch? Is it easy for you to be generous? When have you been generous? How did you feel after you were generous?**

**Let’s pray and ask God to make us generous with others.**

**Go!****Hillside Mural****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** 6 ft. long piece of butcher paper, large markers or tempera paints and brushes

**Quest Connection**

Today, we're going to create a large mural that shows what it might have looked like on the hill where Jesus fed over 5,000 people. Before we do that, let's close our eyes and picture what it might have looked like if we were there. Can you feel the green grass on your bare feet, or poking up through your fingers as you sit on the hill? What do you hear? Are people whispering around you? A baby crying? A bird in a tree? Or, are you just listening to Jesus' strong voice as He teaches? The Sea of Galilee is close by. Do you hear gentle waves? Can you catch the smell of fish? What do you feel? Is there a breeze that keeps you cool? Are you sitting in the shade or in the bright sunshine? Are you hot and sweaty, or comfortable? How does the bread and the piece of fish feel in your hand? Is your stomach growling?

**Procedure:** Once the children have imagined the scene, ask them to work together to create their own rendition of what the feeding of the 5,000 would look like. (If the class is large, have two or more groups of 3-5 students create separate murals.) Explain that a mural is one large picture, not several individual pictures. This project will require cooperation and team work. The team should decide who will draw the hills and scenery where the people gathered, where to place the disciples, the little boy and Jesus, the baskets of leftover food and the people gathered all around. They may want to make a rough sketch of their art plan on a small piece of paper before beginning the larger design. Depending on time, this art project may take more than one class session to complete. Purchase bulletin board border from a teaching supply store or from an office supply store to frame the finished mural. Hang the finished mural in the classroom or a nearby hallway.

**Close**

We'll hang this beautiful mural in our room to remind us of how God uses our small gifts in mighty ways. Let's thank Him together. Prayer: Dear Father, we're so glad You showed us that when we give our smallest gift to You; You're happy to use it for your work. Make us willing to share what we have and to trust You to multiply our efforts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Go!****Feed the Hungry****MISSION PROJECT****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

We learned in our lesson today that Jesus was concerned about the people who were hungry. He did amazing things to make sure they got fed, and we know Jesus had a heart for the poor. If we are true Christ followers, we'll begin to develop a love for those who are poor as well, and we'll take steps to help whenever and however we can. What are some ways that you've been able to help or you've seen other people help the poor or hungry? Today we're going to come up with a plan to do just that? At this point, either encourage the kids to begin the online research, or present some of the ideas you found yourself. Appoint one student as the "secretary" to keep notes on the various ideas. Give the class a choice of projects and then develop a plan to gather materials needed to carry out the plan. You may choose to go as a class to serve a meal at a homeless shelter. Come up with a day and time and write out a letter to the parents to let them know about your project and invite them to join you.

**Procedure:** Check out the following websites for ideas on how to involve your students in a mission project they can put together during class time. If your classroom has access to a computer, let the kids do their own research on ministry organizations and ways they can help feed the hungry: [www.fh.org](http://www.fh.org) (Food for the Hungry) and [www.redshield.org](http://www.redshield.org) (Salvation Army)

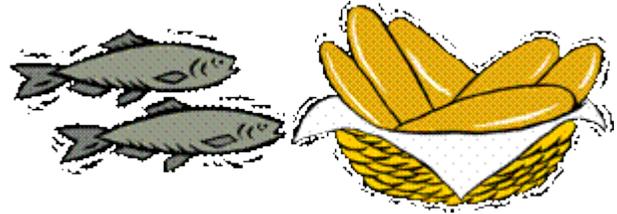
Contact a local homeless shelter, crisis center, or nursing home for ideas on how your class can help their mission.

You may also want to create your own care package to send to missionaries that your church supports who are serving in poor countries. Include personal hygiene items, non-perishable snacks or candy, and a card of encouragement from each child.

**Close**

There are so many ways we can help others. But, one thing we can do every single day is to pray for those who are hungry or homeless and for those who are helping them. Let's do that right now.



**Go!****Basket Relay****GAME**

**Materials:** Two large baskets filled with items to represent loaves and fish, it can be rolled up socks, wadded up paper, golf balls, etc, anything the children can pick up quickly during the relay race

**Quest Connection**

When Jesus fed the 5,000+ people on the hillside, He had the disciples serve the food and then gather up the leftovers. We're going to run a relay race that will help us re-enact the serving and gathering of the fish and bread.

**Procedure:** Let's divide into two even groups. (If you class is small, don't divide into groups but run the relay against the clock.) At the far end of our relay are two baskets filled with "fish and loaves." When I say "go," the first person in line runs down and picks up the basket and runs back to serve it to the team members who must be sitting down in order to be fed. Everyone on the team takes one item from the basket, and the runner then runs the basket back to the end of the relay line, takes a piece of food for himself and runs back to the team and sits down. The next person in line runs to get the basket again and everyone puts the "leftover" back into the basket. The runner returns the full basket back to the end of the relay line. Continue serving and gathering until everyone has had a turn. When everyone has run, the team must call out, "WE'RE FULL."

**Close**

Everyone take a minute to catch your breath. Which did you like better, serving the food or gathering the leftovers? Regardless of how we serve and work for Jesus, He always gives us more and more of Himself to help us. Remember our memory verse? "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11). What do you think it means to be "rich in every way?" What are some ways, other than with money, that we can be rich? (Give examples: love, friendships, knowledge, etc.) How does Jesus make us rich? (He showed us by example how to give generously with His time, His energy, His life, His sacrifice etc.). Let's see if we can say our memory verse together.

**Go!****Math Miracles****STRATEGY**

**Materials:** Resource Page “Math Miracles”

**Quest Connection**

When we think about how Jesus fed so many people with such a tiny bit of food, you have to think about how the food multiplied, how it grew and grew into so much food that there was much left over. Let’s figure this out by using our “Math Miracles” worksheet. Work together with a partner to come up with an answer. (Or, if you have younger kids, work through the problems together as a group.)

**Procedure:** Make a copy of the Math Miracles worksheet for every student.

Answers:

1. Double the five loaves 10 time to reach 5,110. Double the fish 12 times to reach 8,192.
2. a. 1000; b. 5000; c. 3000; d. 2000; e. Total 11,000 people.
3. Each basket weighs 12.5 lbs. 12 baskets of leftovers would weight 150 lbs.

**Close**

We have a powerful God who is able to do such an amazing miracle without even thinking about it or figuring it out on paper. He cares for our every need and knows even when we’re hungry for lunch.

**Go!**



### Bread by the Book

#### FOOD

**Materials:** Bread machine, bread making recipe book

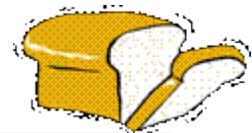
### Quest Connection

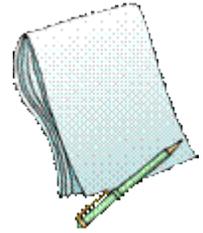
After you've made the bread, talk about the following: **Isn't it amazing how such a small amount of ingredients can rise up and cook and make several meals? How many slices of bread do you think one loaf would make? What special qualities does bread have?** (It gives us energy, it's soft and warm, it uses an active ingredient like yeast to make it rise, it tastes good, it can be made into lots of different shapes and tastes, etc.)

**Procedure:** Bring in a bread machine and bread making recipe book. If a bread machine is not available, plan to make some sort of bread from scratch and let the dough rise during class time. Have the students look through the book and choose from three or four selected recipes to make in the bread machine. Obviously, you won't be able to bring ingredients for every possible recipe, but it is fun to look through the recipe book and pick a favorite recipe. Better yet, come up with your own combination of ingredients, (i.e., raisin/cinnamon bread without the raisins, or make garlic bread by making a regular white bread and sprinkling garlic into the dough, etc.) If the bread is finished baking by the end of church time, have students come back to the classroom to take home a couple of slices of homemade bread. Otherwise, bring fresh baked bread to class next week.

### Close

**Open your Bibles to John 6:48-50. Let's read these verses together. In what way can we compare Jesus to bread?** He strengthens us, He lives in every different kind of person who asks Him to be his/her Savior, He sustains us . . . **Yes, Jesus feeds us spiritually by increasing our lives and filling us with His joy, peace, grace, and patience. When we feel like we don't have enough strength to do something for Him, He gives us all that we need so that we can be generous on every occasion.**



**Go!****Rich Beyond Measure****JOURNAL****Materials:** Resource Page**Quest Connection**

**First, write out your Memory Verse in your journal. Now, make a list of how a person can be rich in something besides money (love, friendships, compassion, knowledge, etc.) Choose one item from your list and write about the following: “One area where I’m rich is . . .” After you’ve written your thoughts, complete this thought: “If I’m rich in this way, I can be generous and give away this wealth by . . .”**

**Procedure:** Reproduce the journal page in your teacher resource for the students to complete.

**Close**

Ask if anyone would be willing to share what they have written in their journal. If no one is willing, be prepared to share what you have written in your journal.

**Go!****Little Things Mean A Lot****OBJECT LESSON**

**Materials:** A box with several small but powerful or valuable things such as: a computer processing chip, a vitamin, a diamond ring, a seed, a clear glass, a quarter cup of vinegar, a teaspoon of baking soda

**Quest Connection**

**Think about how small each of these items are, but what powerful objects they are. This is the same truth that Jesus demonstrated when He fed the five thousand people. He took such a small little lunch, and with the power of God was able to make it multiply so that thousands could be fed. He made the meal abundant and overflowing. Look at this little bit of liquid in a glass. Don't tell the children that the liquid isn't water just yet. It doesn't look like much, and this tiny spoon of baking soda doesn't look like much, but if we put them together what do you think will happen?** Let the kids watch as the vinegar and soda combine and bubble and overflow the glass. Be sure to practice this at home to make sure you have enough vinegar and soda to make it overflow.

**Procedure:** Let the kids take turns pulling out one small item at a time. Talk about what each item can do and the power or value it has.

**Close**

**Let's each think of one small thing we can give to Jesus or do for Him.** (Let each student share something such as help at home, invite a friend to church, bake cookies for a neighbor, babysit for no charge, etc.) **All of these things are just small ways we can offer ourselves to Jesus. Then, He'll make our gift overflow into other lives for Him.**

# Math Miracles

Read in John 6:3-14 the story of how Jesus multiplied the 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed more than five thousand people. Let's do some figuring so we can really appreciate this miracle.

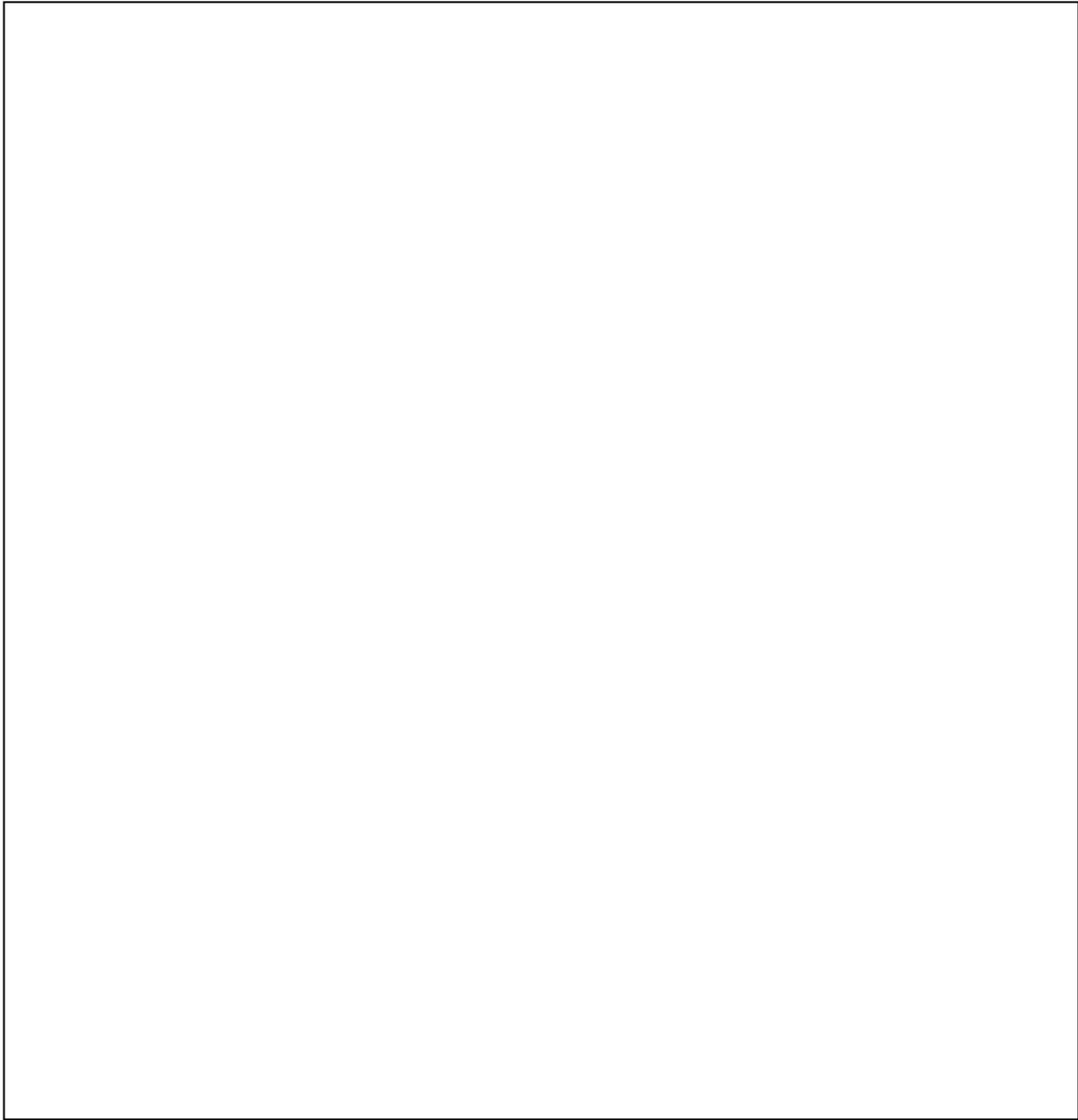
1. The boy had 5 little loaves of bread. How many times would you have to double this number to reach over 5,000? (Here's how to get started:  $5 \times 2 = 10$ ;  $10 \times 2 = 20$ ;  $20 \times 2 = 40$  . . . ) Now do the same with the 2 fish.
  
2. Let's think about how many people had to be fed. The Bible says there were 5,000 men there.
  - a. Let's assume that only 1,000 men came to the hillside alone. Total # \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2,500 men arrived with their wives. Total # \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 1,000 men had a wife and one child. Total # \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How many people in all would need to be fed? Total # \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. If a leftover basket of fish held 25 fish, and each fish weighed .5 lbs, how many pounds of fish would be leftover in one basket? Now multiply that number by 12, since the Bible tells us there were 12 baskets, to find out how many pounds of leftovers there were in all.



## LET'S DO LUNCH JIGSAW PUZZLE

**KEY QUEST VERSE:** "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Read over the Memory Verse above. Write out the Memory Verse in the box below. When you're finished, draw jigsaw puzzle shaped lines on the box. Cut out the pieces and trade them with a friend to see if you can put the verse back together again. (Optional: Before cutting the verse into a puzzle, glue it onto a piece of construction paper to make the pieces heavier.)



## LET'S DO LUNCH GENEROSITY SURVEY

In the story of feeding the 5,000, we see how generous Jesus was by giving everyone as much food as they wanted. Answer the following questions to help you determine your level of generosity. Put an X in the box that best describes you. Be honest in your answers.

QUESTION	USUALLY	SOMETIMES	NEVER
1. When friends come over, I ask them what they want to do and try to find a way to do it.			
2. I've been known to give away part of my lunch to someone at school who didn't have much to eat.			
3. If someone in my family asks to borrow something of mine, I let them.			
4. If there aren't enough treats for everyone, I don't mind giving mine up so someone else will have one.			
5. I don't mind giving up my bed and sleeping on the floor whenever we have special company.			
6. I try to give in some way to people who have less than I do.			
7. When the church has a special mission project, I try to think of ways to help out.			

### RESULTS

1. If most of your answers were in the "Usually" column, you have a generous heart, and God may have even given you a special spiritual gift of giving to use for His work.
2. If most of your answers were "Sometimes," thank God that you are growing in your generosity toward others.
3. If most of your answers were "Never," ask God to show you how to begin to think of others' feelings and needs. Remember, God has promised to give you everything you need when you are willing to be generous for Him.

# Let's Do Lunch . . . Scrambled

Unscramble these words from the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000:

SKATEBS \_\_\_\_\_

VOLASE \_\_\_\_\_

GUNHYR \_\_\_\_\_

DNASOHT \_\_\_\_\_

CHULN \_\_\_\_\_

FELTREOVS \_\_\_\_\_

After you've unscrambled these words, find them in the word search below:  
(All words are horizontal or vertical, one reads right to left. There is one bonus word not on the list above.)

X	E	L	C	L	E	L	V	C	O	U
M	N	U	Q	B	A	S	K	E	T	S
R	H	N	M	T	P	B	Z	X	W	L
Q	U	C	L	T	Y	U	I	O	P	O
D	N	H	D	N	A	S	U	O	H	T
L	G	X	L	N	S	T	E	P	C	B
O	R	N	J	K	L	D	F	G	T	I
A	Y	L	E	F	T	O	V	E	R	S
V	S	U	S	E	J	G	R	W	I	P
E	Q	W	E	Y	G	H	J	K	L	N
S	V	B	X	O	A	R	M	T	J	B

**Answers for worksheet # 3 are:**

Scrambled Words: Baskets, Loaves, Hungry, Thousand, Lunch, Leftovers

Word search horizontal words:

2<sup>nd</sup> line, Baskets

5<sup>th</sup> line, Thousand spelled backward

8<sup>th</sup> line, Leftovers

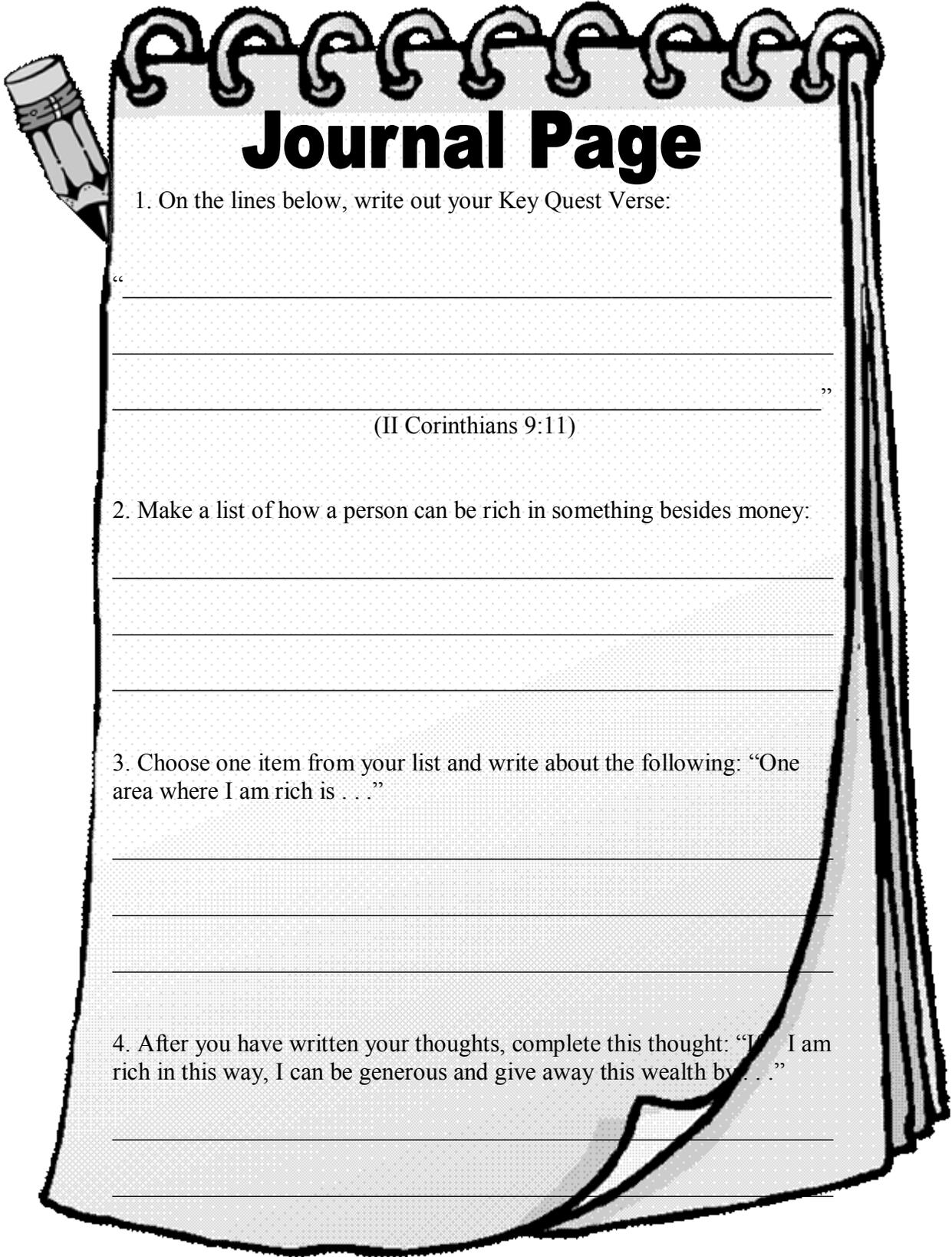
Vertical words:

1<sup>st</sup> column, Loaves

2<sup>nd</sup> column, Hungry

3<sup>rd</sup> column, Lunch

Bonus word: 9<sup>th</sup> line horizontal written backwards – Jesus.



# Journal Page

1. On the lines below, write out your Key Quest Verse:

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ”

(II Corinthians 9:11)

2. Make a list of how a person can be rich in something besides money:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Choose one item from your list and write about the following: “One area where I am rich is . . .”

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. After you have written your thoughts, complete this thought: “If I am rich in this way, I can be generous and give away this wealth by . . .”

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_