

*Get Ready!***Let's Do Lunch!**

By: Julie Gallagher

**Text**

Matthew 14:15-21; Mark 6:33-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14

**Key Quest Verse**

“In everything give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

**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 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 gifts in mighty ways.

**Feel:** God cares for our needs.

**Do:** Be thankful for what we have and share it with others.

**Leader's Devotion**

Our story this week is a great demonstration of how God can use a seemingly small gift and turn it into something big. One small boy was the only one present with any food. Many adults in the same situation would not have even mentioned having the food, knowing that it was small and could never feed everyone. Yet this young child shared what he had. I imagine the disciples laughed at his small contribution at first. That did not stop Jesus from using his lunch and performing a great miracle. How often do we keep our gifts to ourselves thinking that they're not that big or important? God is waiting to use our small gifts to do great things if we will only let Him.

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**Get Set!**

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**Option A****BREAKFAST**

**Materials:** One apple, small loaf of sweet bread, napkins, knife

**Procedure:** Good morning! I brought my breakfast with me today. Did you eat breakfast this morning? I'd like to share some of my breakfast with you. What do you think would be the best way to do that? Do you think we'll have enough for everyone? It really doesn't look like much food, does it? Divide up the bread and apple among your students. Wow! When we shared my breakfast, we had enough for everyone. Did you think we would all get some food? I wasn't so sure. Today's story is about a little boy who shared a little lunch with a lot of people.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

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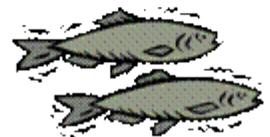
**Option B****LOAVES AND FISHES**

**Materials:** Pictures of loaves and fishes (resource page), scissors

**Procedure:** Today I have job for you to do while I tell the story. Will you please cut these pieces of bread and fish into little pieces? We'll talk more about them while we tell the story.

After the story, ask the following questions: **O.K.** Let's count how many pieces of paper we have. Take time to count the pieces. You see, we aren't even close to having 5,000 pieces. Do you think one bite this size would be enough to make you full? The Bible tells us that everyone ate until they were full and there were still leftovers. Isn't it amazing what God could do with just a little bit of food?

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!



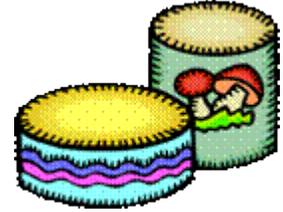
### Bible Story

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

**Materials:** Rubbermaid tub or deep dish baking pan, sand, toothpicks (represents the crowd), 12 popsicle sticks with faces drawn on them (represents the disciples), several rocks, clothespin with a face drawn on and material wrapped around for clothing (represents Jesus), pipe cleaner in the shape of a small person (represents the young boy), small paper bag, fish crackers, saltine or oyster crackers

**Procedure:** When you use option B, tell the story without the sandbox and use the follow-up questions given at the end. As you tell the story, let the children add these items to the sand to make a sand story.

**Jesus and His disciples had been busy preaching and healing people and were ready to take a break. They had been so busy that they hadn't even had time to eat! Jesus and His disciples tried to go away to a quiet place, but the people figured out where they were going and hurried there so they could see Jesus. When Jesus got there, He saw a big crowd of people waiting for Him. Add the toothpicks, clothespin, popsicle sticks. Jesus saw that the people needed to hear about God, so even though He was tired, He stayed and taught them. In fact, He taught them so long, that it was getting late in the afternoon and almost suppertime. The disciples came to Him and said, "It's getting late. Let's send everyone home and try to find something to eat." Sounds like a good idea, doesn't it? I bet they were really hungry! But there was a problem. Jesus didn't like the idea. He said, "You feed them." I bet the disciples thought He was crazy. There were tons of people. The Bible tells us that there were 5,000 men, plus there were women and children there, too. There were no stores anywhere close to buy food, and it would have cost a fortune! What in the world were they going to do? Jesus told them to go and see how much food they could find. They looked and looked, (move the disciples [popsicle sticks] through the crowd) and all they could find was a young boy, (made from the pipe cleaners) who had his lunch. Show the bag. Do you know what was in it? There were 5 small loaves of bread (saltine crackers) and 2 fish (fish crackers). That doesn't seem like much food, does it? The boy gave his lunch to Jesus. Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups. Arrange the toothpicks into groups. Jesus took the food and prayed a prayer asking God to bless the food. He started breaking the bread into pieces and gave it along with some fish to the disciples to give to the people. They just kept passing out the food. It was amazing! The food kept coming and coming! Everyone sat and ate as much as they wanted and when everyone was done, the disciples picked up the leftovers. Do you think they had much food left over? Well, they picked up 12 whole baskets of leftover food! Isn't that amazing? Jesus used one boy's lunch to feed over 5,000 people.**

**Go!****Service Project****CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**Materials:** Tags (resource page), scissors, crayons or markers

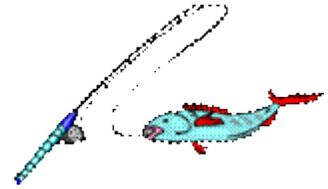
**Quest Connection**

**Do you remember how much food was in the boy's lunch? He was the only one there who had brought any food, and he decided to share what he had. How many of you have plenty to eat? God has given us so many good things, and we're going to share with others. I want you to bring a can or box of food next Sunday. We're going to share the food with people who don't have as much as we do.**

**Procedure:** Make arrangements with a local food pantry to bring food. You also may want to involve the whole church in the food collection. If so, talk to you pastor about making an announcement or any other necessary arrangements. Let the children decorate and cut out the tags to be attached to the food.

**Close**

**Prayer:** Thank You, God, for giving us so many good things.

**Go!****Let's Go Fishing****GAME**

**Materials:** Wooden dowels, string, 2 magnets, 2 buckets or dishpans, 2 sets of fish cut out with one word of the memory verse on each fish, paper clip for each fish

**Quest Connection**

The boy shared his lunch of bread and fish with Jesus and the rest of the people. Jesus gave thanks for the food. Let's practice our memory verse together: "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Do any of you like to go fishing? We're going to do some fishing today to help us learn the verse.

**Procedure:** Before the class, prepare two fishing poles by tying string to each dowel and then tying the magnet to the other end of the string. Prepare two sets of fish. Write one word of the memory verse on each fish. You can split the reference to have an extra fish. Place a paper clip on each fish. Divide the class into two teams. Let them take turns fishing by lowering the fishing pole into the bucket to pull out the fish. After the fish are caught, each team needs to put the fish in the correct order of the verse.

**Close**

Now whenever you go fishing, remember to thank God for the things He's given you.

**Go!****Necklace of Thanks****FOOD**

**Materials:** Ribbon, pretzels or prepared dough for pretzels using the following recipe:

- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 packet of yeast
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 4 cups flour
- 1 egg
- coarse salt

**Quest Connection**

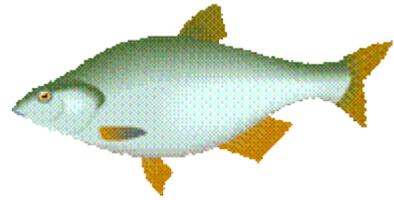
**A long time ago some German monks needed to make money, since they spent all of their time in their home praying. They decided to make pretzels to sell. They made them in a cross shape to remind people to pray. Pretzels are made with a dough similar to bread dough. These pretzels can help us remember to thank God.**

**Procedure:** If making the dough from the recipe above, use the following instructions: Dissolve the yeast in warm water. Next add salt and sugar. Blend in flour. Knead dough until smooth. Cut into small pieces.

If you are making the pretzels, let the children roll the dough in ropes and twist into the pretzel shape. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 450 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Let the children string the pretzels on the ribbon to make a necklace. Let the children share something they are thankful for, for each pretzel on the necklace.

**Close**

**Some of you have lots of pretzels on your necklaces. Let's remember to thank God for giving us the things we need.**

**Go!****Beanie Fish****ARTS/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Sheets of rough sandpaper, fish shape (resource page), crayons, wiggly eyes, glue gun and glue sticks, white felt, funnel, beans or rice

**Quest Connection**

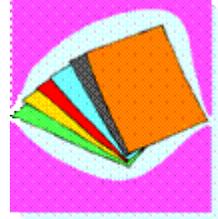
**How many fish did the boy share with Jesus? I've sewn two fish together so we can make a beanie fish.**

**Procedure:** Before class, trace the fish pattern on the white felt (2 for each child), use straight stitch and sew two together along the outline leaving an opening at the tail. Trace the fish pattern on the sandpaper (two for each child).

In class, have the children color the sandpaper. They will need to color dark so the color will transfer onto the felt. With the help of a grown-up, place one piece of the sandpaper, rough side down, on the felt fish. Press with a hot iron so the wax will adhere to the felt. Peel the sandpaper off the felt. Repeat process on the other side. Fill the fish with around 1/2 cup of beans or rice. Seal the tail with the glue gun. Glue the wiggly eyes on the fish.

**Close**

Prayer: **Thank You, God, for using the things we have to work for You.**

**Go!****Important Events Hanging****ARTS/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Construction paper, crayons or markers, clothes hanger, colorful yarn, hole punch

**Quest Connection**

**Can anyone tell me what happened in today's story? Let's think about some of the important events in our story. We're going to make a hanging to show what happened.**

**Procedure:** Let the children write or draw some of the events of the story – one event on each paper. Punch two holes in the top of each sheet and the bottom of all the sheets but the last one. Use the yarn to attach the papers to the hanger and to each other in the correct order of the story. The papers should hang down in the order of the story.

**Close**

**Prayer: Dear God, help us to remember what we've learned today. Help us to be thankful and share with others.**

**Go!****Ministry of Jesus****COMPUTER**

**Materials:** Computer software “The Life and Ministry of Jesus” available from [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com), computer

**Quest Connection**

Today we are going to do some activities on the computer.

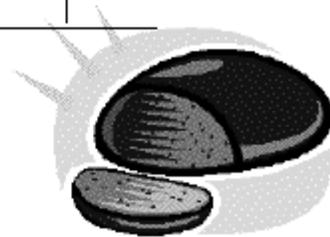
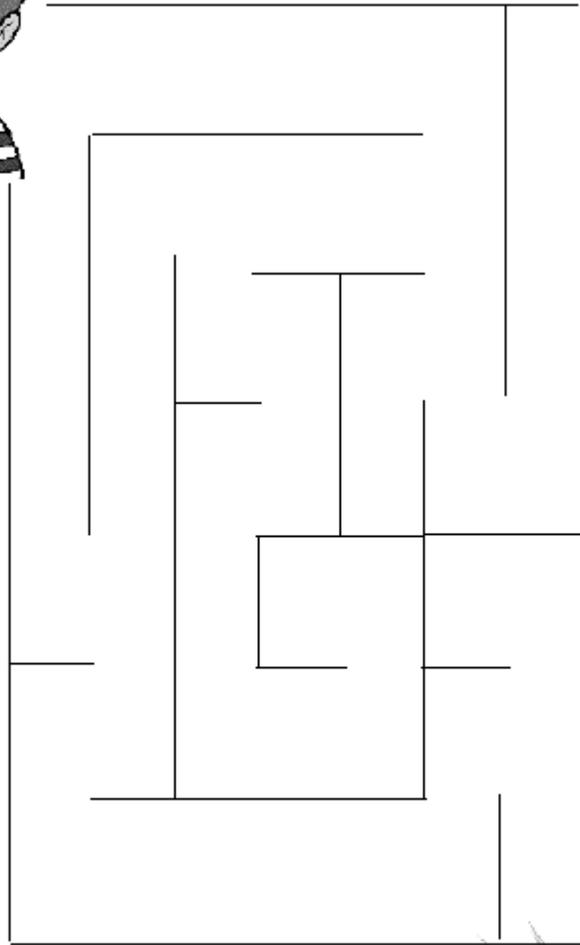
**Procedure:** Install the software and go to the main menu. Click on the story of “Feeding the 5,000.”

**Close**

**What did you learn today while working on the computer?** Divide students into two teams. Have them sit in folding chairs facing you. When they know the answer to the question, have them jump quickly out of their chairs. If they know the correct answer, their team gets a point!

1. **What sea was Jesus near when this miracle happened?** (Galilee)
2. **What did the little boy have packed in his lunch?** (5 loaves, 2 fish)
3. **Were there any leftovers?** (yes)
4. **What book of the Bible is this miracle found?** (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)
5. **What lesson can we learn from this story?** (sharing, etc.)

HELP THE BOY FIND HIS LUNCH.



Use the letter that comes after the letter  
given to crack the secret code.

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

I D R T R      T R D C

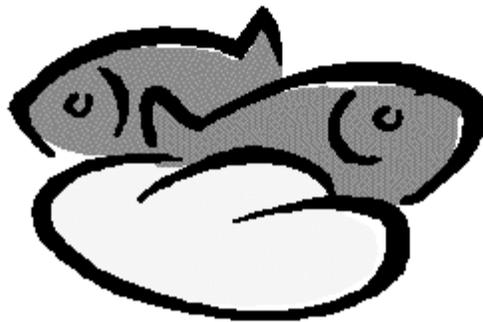
R N L D S G H M F

R L Z K K

S N      C N

R N L D S G H M F

A H F!



Poke a brad fastener in front of each word. Then string the yarn around the fastener to show the correct order of the memory verse.

- **IN**

- **I THESS.**

- **THANKS**

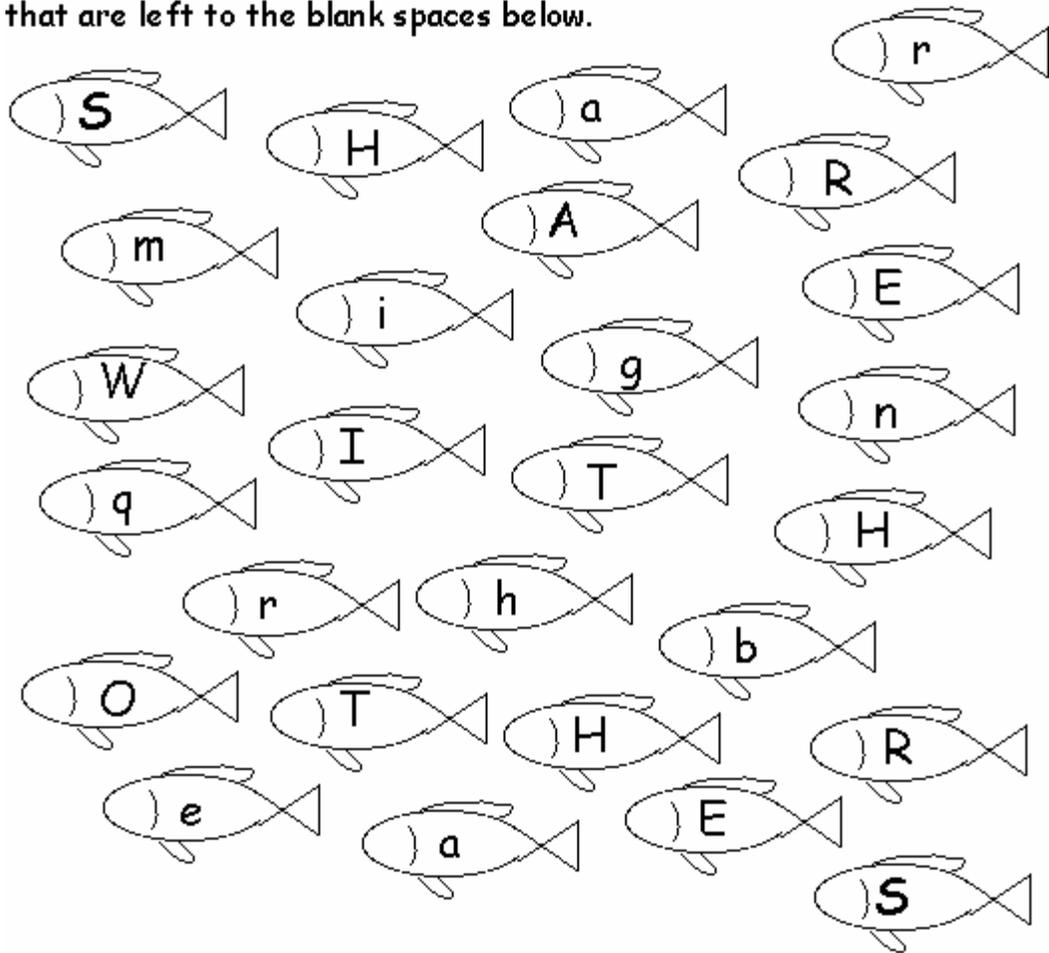
- **GIVE**

- **5:18**



- **EVERYTHING**

The young boy shared his lunch with Jesus. Find the message by coloring all the fish with small letters, then copy the capital letters that are left to the blank spaces below.



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JOURNAL PAGE

The young boy shared his lunch with Jesus.  
Draw a picture of you sharing something  
with someone.



JOURNAL PAGE

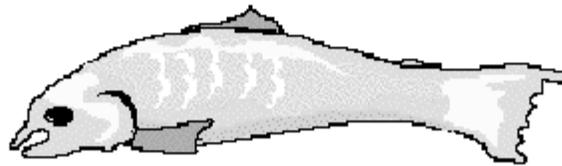
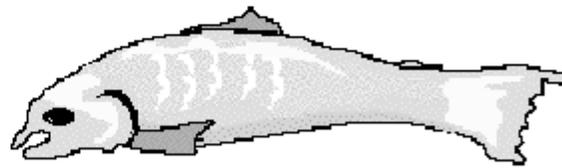
The cross in the pretzel reminds us to pray.  
Write something under each pretzel that  
you are thankful for.



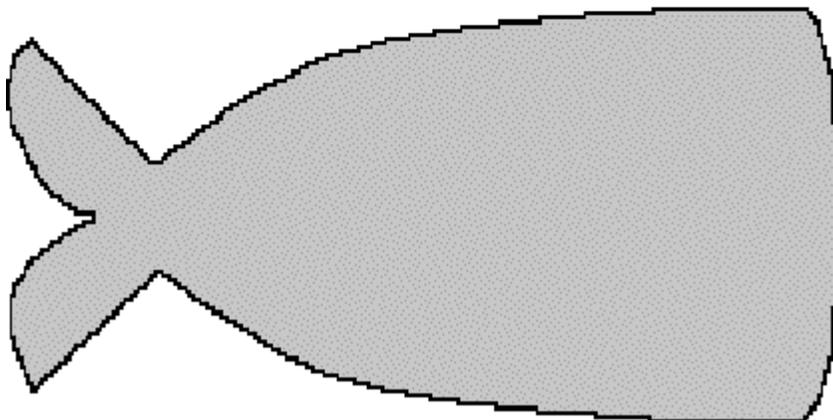
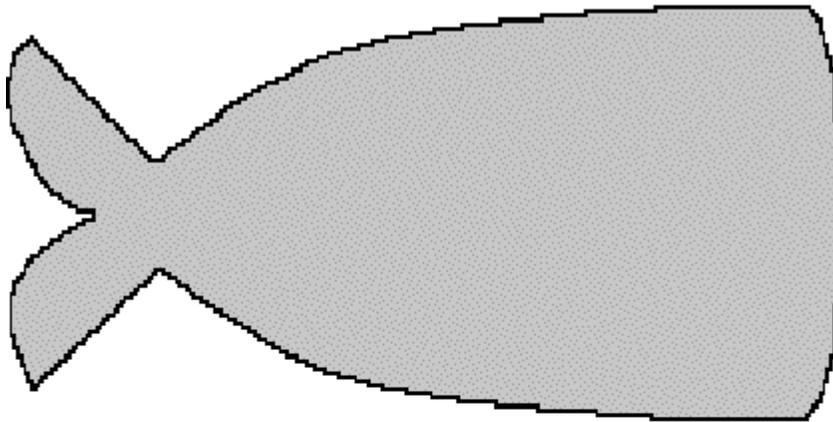
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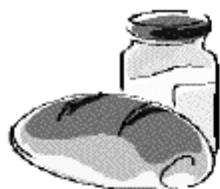
RESOURCE PAGE



# RESOURCE PAGE



## RESOURCE PAGE



Here at

church we have been blessed  
with much and want to share  
with you.

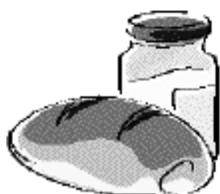
"You will be made rich in every way so  
that you can be generous on every  
occasion." II Corinthians 9:11



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