



# Feeding the Five Thousand

**Lesson Aim: To see how God includes us and expects us to participate in His plan by gathering and giving.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God of Wonders

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** John 6:3-13

**What He has done:** Jesus fed five thousand people with five small loaves and two small fish.

**Key Verse:** John 6:11

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** 1 Chronicles 16:29

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...  
all things were created by Him and for Him.  
He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

Unit 1: Jesus as the God of Wonders			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	Jesus' First Miracle, John 2:3-11	Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana.	To consider miracles: why God performs them, who gets to participate, and how to recognize them.
2	Filling the Nets, Luke 5:1-11	Jesus filled the nets to call His followers.	To challenge children to respond to Jesus' miracles by following Him.
3	Calming the Storm, Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calmed the wind and waves.	To trust Jesus during the storms in our lives and to obey the authorities He has given us.
4	Healing Jairus' Daughter, Luke 8:40-42, 49-56	Jesus healed a 12-year-old girl.	To identify obstacles and to trust God's choice in His way of healing us.
5	Feeding the Five Thousand, John 6:3-13	Jesus fed five thousand people with five small loaves and two small fish.	To see how God includes us and expects us to participate in His plan by gathering and giving.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 111:1-5. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your provision. Inspire the children to share and distribute their resources to Your people. Amen."



# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Fishes and Loaves Confetti	Paper (or paper plates), timer
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "For by Him" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Praise You" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "All Things Bright and Beautiful" "How Great Thou Art" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> 1 Chronicles 29:12-14	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 5 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
		<b>Read the Word:</b> John 6:3-13	Map—Israel, Sea of Galilee, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discussion</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> 1 Chronicles 16:29	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—Children's Guide to Giving (Explanation of how your ministry uses offerings to build God's kingdom. Sample available at ResourceWell.org.), W <sup>3</sup> s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "For by Him," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Fishy Bread	Fish-shaped crackers
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Little Offering, Big Meal	Two sheets of paper, marker, basket
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Fish and Loaves Mobile	Cardboard, brown and blue paper, pencils, scrap paper, 12-inch dowel or stick, stapler and staples or tape, heavy string, hole punches, scissors, markers, optional: glitter or paint
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> The Wave	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "For by Him," CD player
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Timeline

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What's the best thing God has given you?**

### **GAME: FISH AND LOAVES CONFETTI**

**Purpose:** Children will compete in teams to see which team can tear one sheet of paper into the most pieces as they prepare to learn about Jesus' miraculous division of the boy's meal of bread and fish.

**Supplies:** Paper (or paper plates), timer

**Prepare:** On the paper, draw simple outline of five small loaves of bread and two small fish. Be sure the drawing fills the entire sheet of paper. Make enough copies for each team to have two papers.

**This paper stands for a meal of five small loaves of bread and two small fish. How many pieces of paper can you tear from this one piece of paper in one minute? Let's find out!**

#### **Directions:**

1. Form teams of three children on each team.
2. Give an identical sheet of paper to each team.
3. On your signal, start the timer.
4. As you time one minute, teams race to tear one sheet of paper into as many pieces of paper as they can.
5. At the end of one minute, tell the children to stop.
6. Each team counts how many pieces of paper they created from the one sheet of paper. The goal is to be the team with the most pieces of paper.
7. After throwing away the paper from the first round, play again. Challenge children to discuss strategies to improve their scores before you start the game.

**If you had plenty of time, how many pieces do you think you could tear one sheet of paper into?** (Children respond.) **Do you think you could tear it into 5,000 pieces?** (Children respond.) **If so, how small would each piece be?** (Children respond.) **Now think about dividing up your food. How much can you eat for lunch?** (Children respond.) **What would you do if I told you to feed everyone at church (or school) with the same amount of food you eat for lunch? Could you feed everyone with that little bit of food and know that everyone would have enough to eat?** (Children respond.) **Jesus asked His disciples to feed five thousand people. All they had for food was five small loaves and two small fish. Let's find out what happened.**

**Optional:** Have a Tear-Off: Teams are paired together and play against each other. The winning team from each pair of teams is then paired with another winning team and those teams play against each other. Finally, the last two winning teams, who have won against every team they have played, play each other to determine the final winning team.



Jesus as the God of Wonders

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

**Optional:** Give each child a coin at the start of worship. When the offering is collected, invite children to place their coins (and offerings) into an offering basket and trust that Jesus will bless it and distribute it.



You may choose to sing songs that focus on our offerings to God.

**Today, we worship Jesus as the God of Wonders. Wonders are miracles. God performs miracles each time He takes our offering and multiplies it to serve many people. That's what happened when the boy gave his food to Jesus. Jesus distributed it to five thousand people!**



Read 1 Chronicles 29:12-14.



**To distribute is to divide up something to share with others. God has blessed us with gifts to distribute so everyone has what they need to build God's kingdom. Let's give thanks to God for all He has given us. Let's ask Him to perform miracles with the offering we give today.** Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For by Him," as offering is collected.



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 1, Lesson 5.



Jesus fed five thousand

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned Jesus healed Jairus' daughter. What did Jairus do when his daughter became ill?** (He went to Jesus.) **What did Jesus do when he arrived at Jairus' home?** (He told the crowd she was only sleeping. Then He took her hand and said, "Get up, my child." He brought her back to life.) **Today, let's read how Jesus fed five thousand people with five small loaves and two small fish. This miracle happened at Bethsaida near the Sea of Galilee.** If a map of Israel is available, point to Bethsaida near the Sea of Galilee.



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: John 6:3-13. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: John 6:11.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**Listen carefully as we read about how Jesus fed the five thousand people.** Read John 6:3-13.



Distributing our gifts

## THE WAY

**Supplies:** Posterboard or dry erase board, marker, optional: Children's Guide to Giving or other document which explains how your ministry uses offerings to build God's kingdom

**What did Jesus ask His disciples?** ("Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?") **What does this question show us that Jesus expected His disciples to do?** (Serve the hungry crowd.) **How can you serve others this week?** (Children respond.) **How do we know Jesus planned to feed the crowd?** (John 6:6 says Jesus already had in mind what He was going to do.) **Do you think Jesus already has a plan for the gifts you will offer Him?** (Children respond.)

**The disciples did not have the money to buy food for five thousand people. What did they have?** (Five small loaves and two small fish.) **Jesus distributed the boy's loaves and fish. What does distributed mean?** (To distribute means to divide up something to share it with others.) **How does Jesus distribute the offerings we give to the church?** (Jesus takes our offering and leads the church in how to distribute it to others.) **Today's Treasure Treat is a guide that will help you understand how your offering is divided up and shared with others in a way that builds God's kingdom.** If time allows, review the Children's Guide to Giving.

**In this miracle, Jesus made food for five thousand from one boy's meal. How many baskets of leftovers were there?** (12 baskets.) **Jesus takes what we give Him and multiplies it to build His kingdom. He lets us be a part of His miracles! How do you think the boy felt to see his loaves of bread and fish feed so many?** (Children respond.)

**Let's make a list of what you and your family might offer to the church and other ministries.** Display list on poster or board. List may include: earned money, allowance, canned goods, time, talents, a spare Bible, etc. **What are some ways you think Jesus might use the gifts on this list to build His kingdom? What miracles might Jesus do with these gifts?** (Children respond.)

**The disciples gathered what they had and gave it to Jesus. Jesus blessed and distributed it. Then, the disciples watched Jesus perform a miracle with the little they gave Him. How is this story like a picture of the church?** (Children respond.) **Just as He did with the disciples, Jesus expects His followers today to gather what we have and give it to Him. He will bless it and then distribute it. Then we get to watch for the miracles He will perform!**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**God's people have been giving offerings to Him for thousands of years. Check out what King David said about that in his Psalm of thanks to God.**



**FIND IT FIRST** > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Chronicles 16:29. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read 1 Chronicles 16:29.

**To ascribe glory to the Lord is to believe He is due all the credit for His greatness and for His miracles. What does this passage say we are to bring when we come before the Lord?** (An offering.) **When we bring our offering to the Lord we can worship Him by giving Him the credit and glory He deserves!**

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## **GOLDEN BOWL**

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.** Read names in Golden Bowl.

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a Children's Guide to Giving. It's a special guide to show you how your offering money is used to build God's kingdom. Use this guide to show others how we can all help build God's kingdom.

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #5. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the boy giving his five small loaves of bread and two small fish to Jesus. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For by Him," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: FISHY BREAD**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while discussing what Jesus has supplied for them.

**Snack Suggestion:** Fish-shaped crackers

**What food did the boy give Jesus?** (Five small loaves of bread and two small fish.) **What miracle did Jesus do with the boy's food?** (Fed five thousand people.) **Jesus gave food to the hungry people. Sometimes we have food or money or items that we can give. Other times, we can choose to give our time and talents. Let's eat a snack of fish-shaped crackers and talk about a special talent God has given you that you can use to grow His kingdom.**

**Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is a special talent God has given you?"**

### **GAME: LITTLE OFFERING, BIG MEAL**

**Purpose:** For children to experience the nature of Jesus' miraculous feeding of the five thousand.

**Supplies:** Two sheets of paper, marker, basket

**Prepare:** Draw two fish on one sheet of paper and five loaves on the other paper. Fold each paper into a size that fits in a child's palm.

**Let's play another game to understand how amazing Jesus' miracle of feeding the five thousand people really was. As we play the game, remember just as Jesus used the boy's small offering of bread and fish, He uses your offering, big or small, to help others.**

**Directions:**

1. Children close their eyes as the teacher secretly hides the two drawings in the same place.
2. The Children open their eyes and search for the drawings of food just as the disciples searched through the crowd for food.
3. The child who finds the drawings then brings them to the teacher.
4. The teacher gives thanks and tears each picture into four pieces.
5. Child then distributes the eight pieces to the other children who each tear off a small piece of the loaves drawing and of the fish drawing. Children tear pieces of paper as many times as it takes for each child to have one piece.
6. Finally, pass a basket to collect any leftover pieces. Children may keep a small piece of paper to keep as a reminder of this miracle.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: FISHES AND LOAVES MOBILE**

**Purpose:** Children will make a mobile displaying the five small loaves and two small fish to help them remember to participate in God's plan for distributing provisions.

**Supplies:** Cardboard, brown and blue paper, pencils, scrap paper, 12-inch dowel or stick, stapler and staples or tape, heavy string, hole punches, scissors, markers, optional: glitter or paint

**Prepare:** Cut 3-inch bread loaf and fish-shaped templates from cardboard for each child. Cut one 18-inch length of string for each child. Tie a string to each stick as a hanger. If you have limited time or younger children in your class, precut all of the bread and fish or children can hang the one-dimensional versions of the fish and bread.

**Optional:** Decorate the fish, bread and stick with glitter or paint.

**What did the boy give Jesus to help feed the crowd?** (Five small loaves of bread and two small fish.) **What did Jesus do with the boy's food?** (Fed at least five thousand people.) **How much food was left over?** (Twelve baskets full of bread.) **The boy offered the small amount of food that he had and Jesus used it to feed a huge crowd. Jesus will use whatever you give, too. What are some things you can give?** (Give money for tithes and donations, give time and talents, give food, toys, clothes, etc.)

**Let's make a mobile of the five small loaves and two small fish to help us remember the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 people. Hang your mobile at home to help you remember to give what you have to Jesus. Then watch to see how He uses what you give!**

### **Directions:**

1. Trace and cut out four fish from the blue paper.
2. Trace and cut out ten loaves of bread from the brown paper.
3. Optional: Use markers to decorate the fish and bread.
4. Lay one fish shape on top of a second fish shape. Make sure the edges match evenly.
5. Staple or tape around the edges of the fish leaving enough space at the bottom of the fish so one finger can fit into the hole.
6. Punch a hole through both layers in the top of the fish to create a way to thread and hang the fish from the stick.
7. Tear off bits of scrap paper. Crumple the paper and stuff them inside the fish.
8. When the fish is full of paper, staple or tape the hole closed.
9. Repeat with remaining bread and fish shapes until you have two stuffed fish and five stuffed bread loaves.
10. Cut seven pieces of string in different lengths.
11. Tie each piece of string through a different hole in a fish or bread shape. Tie the other ends of the strings onto the stick so the fish and bread hang down from the stick.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...  
all things were created by Him and for Him.  
He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

### **GAME: THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

**Jesus was with God in the very beginning. Together, they created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!**

**Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from Colossians 1:16-17 to each child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to thighs and sits down.
3. Repeat three times going faster each time.

### **GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS**

**Purpose:** Children memorize and discuss the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Chairs, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "For by Him," CD player, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

**Prepare:** Set chairs (one for every child) back-to-back in a row.

**Teacher Tip:** In this version of musical chairs, no chairs are removed. All children remain in the game. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and be seated.

**Did you know Jesus created you? That's what the Bible says. Jesus was with God in the beginning and all things were created by Him and for Him. That's what our Bible Memory Verse is all about. Let's say it together to learn more about Jesus.** Read Colossians 1:16-17 from the Bible or recite from the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster.

**Directions:**

1. Play or sing the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For by Him."
2. Children sing the song and walk around the chairs in a line.
3. Stop the music. Children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.
4. Play again. Each time you play, stop the song in a different spot and ask the children to finish singing the next few words or phrase.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible stories studied to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Create or purchase a Bible Timeline. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions to review recent lessons.

**Calming the Storm (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Who did the followers go to when they were afraid?** (Jesus.) **What did the wind and waves do when Jesus gave them an order?** (They obeyed.) **Jesus wants us to obey Him just as quickly as the waves did.**

**Healing Jairus' Daughter (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did Jairus do when his daughter became ill?** (He went to Jesus and asked for healing.) **Jesus encouraged him to believe in God's healing. What are the three ways God heals us?** (Right away, along the way, and someday in heaven.)

**Feeding the Five Thousand (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did the boy offer Jesus?** (Five loaves of bread and two fish.) **Jesus distributed the boy's loaves of bread and fish. Did each person in the crowd have enough to eat?** (Yes.) **How many baskets of leftovers were there?** (12.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each story title on a card or paper cutout of a footprint.
2. Attach footprints to a wall or clothesline in the order below for God of Wonders Lessons 1-21, so children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons in the study of the miracles of Jesus.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven

Note: God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. For a comprehensive list of Genesis through Revelation stories in timeline form, see [ResourceWell.org](http://ResourceWell.org).