



Jesus Feeds Hungry People

(based on Mark 6:30-44)

One day, a huge crowd came to hear Jesus talk about God's love. There were over five thousand people. It was very crowded and people were everywhere.

The crowd stayed all afternoon and into the evening. The sun went down, and it started getting dark. It was time for supper. Everyone was hungry.

Jesus' friends came to him and said, "It is already late. Send the people away. They need to go to the farms and towns to buy some food to eat."

"You can give them food to eat," Jesus replied.

Philip looked around, "Look at this massive crowd," he exclaimed. "We don't have enough money to buy food for everyone. We would all have to work a month to earn enough to buy that much bread!"

"How many loaves of bread do you have now?" Jesus asked. Then he told them, "Go and see."

The disciples went to see if anyone had some food. "We have 1, 2 fish," they said. "And 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 loaves of bread."

Jesus smiled. "Bring the food to me and ask the people to sit in groups on the grass."

"Sit down, everyone!" called the disciples.

When everyone was settled, Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He thanked God for the food and gave it to the disciples to pass out to everyone.

The most amazing thing happened. Somehow those five loaves and two fish fed every single person in the crowd. Over five thousand people ate until they were full.

There was more than enough food for everyone. In fact, there were so many leftovers, they filled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 baskets.

The people began to walk home. They had seen something amazing. God turned five loaves and two fish into a huge meal that fed everyone.



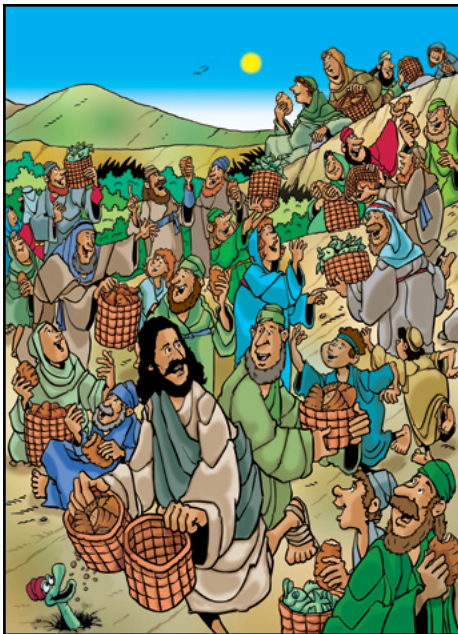
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story together—imagine and wonder.
- Read *Let's Eat/A Comer!* by Pat Mora (Harper Collins, 2008) or watch the YouTube video “Let’s Eat! A Comer! By: Pat Mora—Children’s Books—Read Aloud Books” (bit.ly/LetsEatReadAloud). Enjoy the story about a family that is grateful for the blessings it has received.



Responding to God's Grace

- In this story, the disciples found food to be shared. If your school has a back-snack program, consider sending some healthy food to be included in the backpacks. Another idea is to assemble a complete meal to give to a local food pantry. Include protein, fruit, and vegetables in nonperishable form.
- Talk together about why it’s important to put a reasonable amount of food on your plate, so unwanted food isn’t wasted.
- Can you think of a time when you were surprised there was enough, or when someone shared unexpectedly?

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Enjoy a meal of fish and some side dishes.
- Bake bread or biscuits together. A mix or refrigerator dough will do if you don’t want to bake from scratch. Enjoy “five loaves.”
- Pray this prayer:

God, thank you for caring that we have enough to eat. Help us care for others who do not. Amen.

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.