

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY

**Week Twenty Six - Feeds Five Thousand****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

One of the better known miracles of Jesus is when he fed over five thousand people with just a few loaves of bread and a couple fish. Certainly his concern for their physical well-being and hunger is on display, as well as his divine power. But it's important we also consider how Jesus chooses to perform this miracle - by inviting his disciples and the crowd into his work.

- **Big Idea:** Jesus fills us up for his mission!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Multiplying the Goldfish**

Give one serving of today's snack to one kid. Ask them to share it with everyone else in the room. Let them squirm a little as they notice how far it goes and how little they each get. Notice how generous or not the kid passing it out is. Then talk about how Jesus fills us with his generosity and power. Make sure at this point to hand out the rest of the snacks so all get enough.

Sing Together

Story - from Matthew 14 & John 6

Jesus' friend and cousin, John the baptizer, was arrested by King Herod. Even worse, after he had been in prison for a while, Herod had a party. It was a great feast! At the feast, John was brought out and beheaded on the spot.

When Jesus got the news John was killed, he slipped away by boat to be by himself. But someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. When he saw them coming, he was overcome with mercy and healed their sickness.

Toward evening the disciples approached him. "We're out in the country and it's getting late. Turn these people away so they can go to the villages and get some dinner."

But Jesus said, "There is no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

"All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish," they said. These belonged to a young man who was in the crowd.

Jesus said, "Bring them here." Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face toward heaven in prayer, thanked his Father, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the crowd. They all ate their fill. The disciples then gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand men plus women and children were fed with enough for the disciples too!

The next day the crowd followed after Jesus. When they found him across the sea, Jesus said, "You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs—and for free. Don't waste your energy striving for perishable food like that. Work for the food that sticks with you, food that nourishes your lasting life, food the Son of Man provides."

They said, "What must we do to see the works of God?"

Jesus said, "Believe the One that God has sent."

"What sign, then, are you going to do so that we may see and believe you?"

they asked. "What are you going to perform? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus responded, "Here's the truth: Moses did not give bread from heaven but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. The Bread of God has come down out of heaven and is giving life to the world."

They jumped at that: "Master, give us this bread, now and forever!"

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. The person who comes to me will never be hungry or thirsty again."

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- How do you think Jesus was able to make enough food for thousands from just one person's meal?
- Why do you think the people wanted another sign after Jesus already performed a miracle?

[Remember, Jesus said they weren't after a sign - they just wanted more food! They were likely not very wealthy people looking to get fed]

- What did Jesus mean when he said he is the Bread of Life?
- What does it mean that he can fill us so we never hunger or thirst again? How can we feast on Jesus?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

Father, thank you for filling us and providing for our needs. Not just our bellies, but our hearts, minds, and souls. Thank you for Jesus who truly satisfies!

- **Craft:**

- Color the fish and loaves on the sheet attached and cut them out. Cut a paper plate in half (or use two sheets of paper) and staple the bottom sides together, leaving an opening on the top. This creates a 'basket' to carry the fish and loaves in. You can attach a string or pipe cleaner to the top as a handle.

- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. When you share a meal this week, remind whoever you are eating with that Jesus is the one who truly fills us and satisfies our needs.

Jesus Feeds 5000
with 2 fish and
5 loaves of bread

