



Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Large-Group Lesson
4

John 6:1-14

◀ The Point ▶

We trust God to provide.



Key Verse

"You are the God of great wonders!"
—Psalm 77:14


CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always choose this option for your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

Large Group

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options	Get Your Supplies	Planning Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome <i>Connect With Groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-Group DVD 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Praise & Worship <i>Sing It Out</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-Group DVD 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Object Lesson <i>Multiple Corners</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-Group DVD paper scissors 	Good visual or it can be used instead of food lesson.
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <i>Bull's-Eye!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-Group DVD Bungee Blast (<i>provided in kit</i>) butcher paper marker 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Creative Drawing <i>Two or More</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-Group DVD paper pencils 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DVD Drama <i>Broken Pieces</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-Group DVD 	

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

Small Group

WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

Bibles • Bible Memory Makers® • "Living Inside Out Every Day!" handouts

Preschool Supplies	Lower Elementary Supplies	Upper Elementary Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small plastic bags fish-shaped crackers oyster crackers slips of paper pen large bowl paper cups paper pens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small plastic bags fish-shaped crackers oyster crackers slips of paper pen large bowl paper cups paper colored pencils or different-colored pens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small plastic bags fish-shaped crackers oyster crackers slips of paper pen large bowl paper cups
ALLERGY ALERT	ALLERGY ALERT	ALLERGY ALERT

Should be OK with allergies this time.



Tear off for easy planning.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

John 6:1-14



Bible Foundation

THE PROBLEM

Word of Jesus' miracles and life-changing teaching was spreading—he was becoming something of a celebrity. One day, on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee, a massive crowd of over 5,000 people gathered to hear him. In the midst of the crushing mass, a bad situation became obvious to Jesus' disciples: These people would soon be hungry and there was clearly no possible way to feed them all.

MORE THAN ENOUGH

Andrew found a young boy in the crowd who had food—but just five loaves and two fish. Miraculously, Jesus multiplied the small meal into a feast for thousands, with baskets of leftover food. Jesus knew what the people needed and, from the start, he “knew what he was going to do.” Through this amazing miracle, he demonstrated that he could—and would—provide. And even more, Jesus showed that when he gets his hands on our stuff, blessings explode in abundance.

COULDA, WOULD, SHOULD

Jesus could have spoken a simple word, and food would have appeared. He could have simply *thought* about it, and the hunger of all the people would have been instantly satisfied. Maybe some people think he should have done it that way—it certainly would have been faster. But Jesus didn't. Instead, he let the people experience hunger. He helped his disciples recognize their utter inability to solve the problem themselves, and he used a young boy's small offering as part of his miracle.

A DEEPER AGENDA

The day after he miraculously fed the 5,000, the same crowd gathered again. Jesus illuminated the events of the previous day with an even deeper spiritual meaning: “I am the bread of life,” he said, “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again” (John 6:35). In the Old Testament, God communicates the same idea, explaining that he purposely allowed his people to hunger and then gave them manna to help them realize that they need him to really live and be satisfied (Deuteronomy 8:3).

LIVING INSIDE OUT

This is often how God works. He wants us to realize that only *he* can provide for our deepest needs and hungers, that he *will* provide even when it may not seem possible to us, and that he may also want to involve us (our time, our abilities, and so on) in the process of his provision. Are you aware, in this moment, how much you rely on God? That he is the ultimate provider of your food, your water, your shelter, even the air you breathe as you read these words? Take time to give God credit for his provision. Take stock of divine provisions in your life you may have taken for granted. Praise God for the needs he meets and the lessons he seeks to teach you through your dependence upon him.



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John 6:1-14

Welcome



Allow 5 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 COUNT DOWN**
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!
- 2 GREET**
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.
- 3 ANNOUNCE**
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

Praise & Worship



Allow 10 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 SING**
"Living Inside Out" (Song 1)
"God of Great Wonders" (Psalm 77:14) (Song 2)
"Walk Humbly" (Micah 6:8) (Song 5)
"The Lord Is Merciful" (Psalm 145:8) (Song 6)
- 2 PRAY**
Thank God for the blessings he gives us and for showing us that we can trust him.
- 3 MAKE THE CONNECTION**
Say: **When we really need something, such as a coat when it's cold or a hug when we're sad, we can ask our parents and they'll give it to us. God is the same way. From the food we eat to the air we breathe, ► we trust God to provide. We believe that God will give us everything we need.**

Leader Tip

Easy Options:

- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.






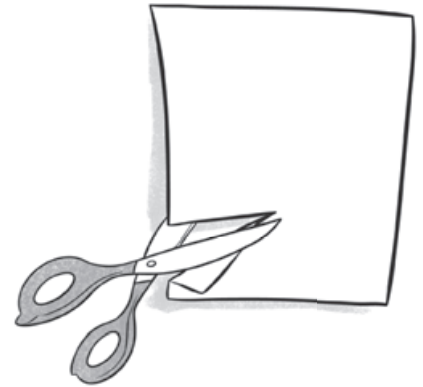
Object Lesson

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • paper • scissors

Multiple Corners

- 1 SHOW**
Say: **Jesus did some amazing things when he was here on earth. One of the amazing things he did was to take a small boy's lunch, just some bread and fish, and use it to feed over 5,000 people.** Hold up a piece of paper, and say: **How many corners does this piece of paper have?** Allow kids to answer.
- 2 CUT**
Say: **I have four corners here. I'd like to give someone a corner.** Cut off a corner of the paper, and hand it to a child. Hold up the paper, and say: **OK, now that I've given a corner away, how many corners do I have?** Allow kids to answer, and then say: **Wait a minute. I have five.** Count the corners to show the kids there are now five corners on your paper.
- 3 CONNECT**
Say: **You see, the more times Jesus divided the bread and fish, the more he had to give away.** Have the child with the cut-off piece count the corners on the paper he or she holds. **Not only that, the people had more than enough.** Keep cutting corners until everyone gets a corner. (Take more paper if necessary.)
- 4 DISCUSS IN GROUPS**  **Multiple Corners Questions**
Cue screens as kids answer each of the following:
 - **What do you think about what Jesus did?**
 - **What's something Jesus has provided for you?**
 - **What is something you have that God could multiply as a way of helping others?**
- 5 MAKE THE CONNECTION**
Say: **Jesus took a boy's lunch, just a few loaves of bread and fish, and blessed 5,000 people with it. He can do the same thing with us! He can take what we have and bless others with it. ► We trust God to provide, and Jesus just might use what we already have to do it.**





DVD Drama

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

Broken Pieces

1 INTRODUCE

Say: **Jesus performed amazing miracles for many people. He prayed for people to hear and see again, helped people walk, and even raised people from the dead! Watch one amazing miracle where he fed over 5,000 people—with just a little boy's lunch.**

2 WATCH **Broken Pieces**

Cue the DVD to the video *Broken Pieces*.

3 DISCUSS IN GROUPS **Broken Pieces Questions**

Cue screens as kids answer each of the following:

- **Talk about a time you were really hungry.**
- **What's one need that God has met for you?**
- **What's one need you have this week that you want God to meet?**

4 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **The 5,000 people who were hungry that day didn't know where their food was going to come from. The disciples even asked, "How are we going to feed these people?" Jesus answered all of them with a small boy's lunch. This miracle shows us that God can give us exactly what we need—from places we don't even expect. That's why ► we trust God to provide.**

