

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

LIFE OF CHRIST

Jesus Feeds the 5,000

Mark 6:30-44

Younger Verse

Be kind and compassionate to one another. Ephesians 4:32

Older Verse

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Introduction

Have you ever been to eat at a place where there was a lot of food? Were there many people there? Who made the food? Today we are going to learn about a time when there were many people at one place, but not very much food. Listen to find out what happened.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Two weeks ago we learned about when Jesus sent out the disciples. When He sent them, He gave them special powers from God. Then last week, we learned about Jesus' cousin John. John shared God's truth with everybody. The king and his wife did not want to change what John was telling them they were doing wrong, so the king had him killed.

When the disciples returned to Jesus, they were very excited! They told Him of all the amazing things that happened. How do you think Jesus felt as He listened? He was excited too! They had the chance to be used by God, just like Him. As they were gathered around Jesus, many people were coming and going. With all the people around them, they had not had the chance to eat, so they were very tired and hungry.

Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourself to a quiet place and get some rest." Why do you think Jesus said this? (Wait for responses.) Yes, He knew they had been gone for a long time and were tired. So Jesus had them get into a boat to go to a quiet place. All the people that had been around them earlier wanted to follow them as they sailed across the water. What do you think they did? (Wait for responses.) They ran to the place where Jesus and his disciples were going! Can you imagine how much they must have wanted to be with Jesus?

They arrived and stepped out of the boat. Now why did Jesus have the disciples get in the boat? Yes, so they could go to a quiet place. But all those people have followed them, so will it be quiet? No! What do you think Jesus will do now? Make them leave? Try to go to another place? When Jesus looked at all the people, He had compassion on them. He cared for them. They were like sheep without a shepherd to Him. He knew that they were following Him because they had no one else to follow. So Jesus began to teach them about God's love.

It had gotten later in the day and the disciples were still tired. They were ready to go. So they went to Jesus and said, "We are very far away from any food and it is getting late. Send the people back to the villages so they can get some food." What will Jesus do? He said to them, "You feed them." Hmm, there was no food around, and Jesus just asked them to feed

Lesson Goals

The children will see that Jesus cared for both the disciples and the crowd.
Jesus wanted to give His disciples a chance to serve the people
Jesus wants us to be servants to each other.

all those people.

The disciples looked at all the people and realized that it would cost a lot of money. They said to Jesus, “it would take 8 months’ pay to feed all the people here! Are we going to spend that much money on bread for everybody?”

Jesus knew that His disciples did not understand God’s power yet. So He asked them, “How many loaves of bread do you have? Go and see.” They went and found out they had exactly 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. Is that a lot of food? No, not really. But remember Jesus can do amazing things. Let’s see what happened.

Jesus had His disciples put all the people into small groups of 50 or 100 people. Jesus took the bread and fish into His hands. He looked up to Heaven and thanked God for it. Then He had begun to break it into small pieces for His disciples to pass out. Do you think there will be enough? Everybody ate some food and was satisfied. Once everyone was full, the disciples walked around to pick up the leftovers. There were 12 baskets full of leftovers! The Bible says that there were over 5,000 people there listening to and eating with Jesus. That was a bunch of people to be with Jesus all at the same time.

This was another miracle that Jesus did. He provided food for people when there did not seem to be enough. Jesus gave His disciples another chance to be servants to other people. He wanted them to learn the importance of taking care of others even when they were tired. It is important for us to remember this. As a follower of Jesus, we need to learn how to think of others before ourselves. When we are faithful to do things the way God wants us to, Jesus can use us to do amazing things.

Jesus was faithful to God and to us. He loves us so much that He died on the cross and came back to life! All so that we could have a way to be with Him in Heaven! If you ask Him to forgive you of all the wrong things you have ever done, then He will come and live in your heart forever so that you can go to Heaven. If you want to ask Jesus to forgive you, please talk with me before you leave.

Learning Activities

This is an excellent story to bring props for telling. Bring bread, fish (real or fake) baskets, toy boat, etc. Props always make a wonderful addition to the story for the children.

Memory Verse Activities

Have the children say the verse to each other and then give each other their snack.

Prayer Time

Ask the children if they have anything to pray about. Pray for those things and pray that the children will see the opportunities God gives them be servants to one another.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Encourage the children to help you clean up. Don’t do it all yourself. They can be servants too! Let them help you pass out snacks and remind them that if they have any questions, they can ask you any time they want.

Planning for Lesson 24
Jesus Walks on Water
Mark 6:45-56

Preschool Lesson For Jesus Feeds the 5,000

Hello again to all of you. I am so glad that many of you are able to continue coming to church. A couple of weeks ago, we learned about Jesus sending out His special friends. He gave special powers from God to go out and do the same things He did.

They went out and told many people about God's love and healed many people. They were excited! They could not wait to get back and tell Jesus all the things that had taken place! All twelve of them gathered around, each sharing his own stories. How do you think Jesus felt? Oh yes, He was very excited.

They were in a very busy place, so there were many people walking all around them. With all the activity, they had not had a chance to eat. How do you think the twelve friends felt? Yes, very hungry. So Jesus said, "Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest."

They all climbed into a boat and began to go across the water. The other people noticed that they were going to the other side. So what do you think they did? They ran to the place where the boat was going! They must have really wanted to be with Jesus!

Once the boat arrived on land, Jesus saw all the people. How do you think Jesus felt? (Wait for responses.) He cared for them too. He knew his special friends were hungry and tired, but He knew that those people really wanted to be with Him. He saw them as little sheep without a shepherd to lead them anywhere. Jesus taught them about God's love.

It started to get later in the day. The twelve special friends went to Jesus and said, "Everyone will get hungry and there is not any food close to where we are. You should send them home."

Jesus looked at them and said, "You feed them."

Well, this was not what the friends expected Jesus to say. They looked around at all the people and said, "Jesus, we would have to work 8 months to get enough food. Do you want us to spend that much money?" What do you think, was that what Jesus wanted them to do? No, Jesus knew that they did not understand God's power yet.

He told them to go and find how much was there. They came back with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. Was that a lot of food? No! But Jesus had a plan. He had them split all the people up into small groups.

He took the food and thanked God for it. Then he broke it into many pieces for the friends to pass out. Do you think they had enough? The Bible says that everyone ate and was satisfied. That means everybody had full stomachs! They even had 12 baskets of food leftover. All together, there were over 5,000 people.

Jesus took care of those people and His special friends. Jesus takes care of all of us. He wants us to take care of others too. We may not be able to feed 5,000 people, but we can help someone in other ways. What are ways we can help others? (Come up with ways they can be helpers.)

Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross and came back to life. He did that for those people He fed and you and me. We are also like little sheep without a shepherd if we are not following Jesus. Jesus wants to be in your life. If you want to know how to be a sheep that follows Jesus, ask me before you leave.

Hands-On Activities
For
Jesus Feeds the 5,000

Take your kids on a picnic. Bring tuna fish and bread or goldfish crackers to eat.

There are lots of ideas of things to do this week. Use your creative imagination to find fun ways to help the kids learn and remember an important lesson from the story.

One idea, to show the importance of sharing, is to let each child make a sandwich then share it (or give it) to someone else to eat. Be sure everyone washes their hands first!

Bring in large bowls and dump in fruit loops, miniature colored marshmallows, Cheerios, raisins, (chocolate chips is also a possibility) or other snack foods. The children all have a turn stirring the mixture. Put a plastic bag inside a small Styrofoam cup. The children scoop some of the mixture into the bag inside the cup. Attach a card with a "TO" and "FROM" and the verse from the lesson on the back. The children color and decorate the card. They get to fill another sandwich bag for themselves and so leave church with one for a friend and one for themselves.