Learn by Doing

Choice Feeding the 5000



Reenact the story of the Lord feeding 5000 people on the mountain. The teacher reads the story using the script on p. 2 and directs children throughout. Adjust parts that will be acted out by the children in your group according to your group size and the ages of the children. For a young group, the teacher could be “Jesus”, “Philip”, or “Andrew”.

1. Has your family ever invited 5000 people to dinner? That’s a lot of people isn’t it? It would take a long time to cook food for so many people. Do you think 5000 people would fit in your house?
2. In our story today the Lord did a wonderful miracle. He fed 5000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. Let’s find out how His disciples helped Him.
3. Assign key roles.
4. *Optional*: help the children dress in costumes.
5. Get the children in the starting positions with Jesus and the Disciples on one side of the sea of Galilee and the crowd on the other side with more room. Act out the story using the script provided (p. 2).
6. If there is interest and time, repeat the story, either with the same actors or with assigning new roles.

Materials Needed

Feeding the 5000 p. 2, open space for acting, blue sheet or fabric for Sea of Galilee, crackers or bread, fish (plastic, real fish like sardines, or gold-fish crackers), 12 baskets (or as many as you can gather)

Prepare in Advance

Purchase fish and crackers. Gather baskets. Set up the room with the Sea of Galilee toward one side. *Optional*: gather costumes.

New Church Concept
Food and Drink

“Food and drink” signify all things that nourish and sustain spiritual life, and these in general are knowledges of truth and good. *Apocalypse Explained* 386



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Feeding the 5000

Roles: Jesus, Disciples (at least 2), Boy with fish and bread, Crowd.

Set-Up: Create an open space, large enough for everyone to be able to sit on the floor beside a sheet or towel. Spread a blue sheet or towel out on one side of the acting space to represent the Sea of Galilee. Put the baskets on the other side of the acting space (the "hill").

Props: Baskets (up to 12), 5 loaves (flat bread or bread slices), 2 fish (plastic, goldfish crackers, or real fish like sardines)

Teacher reads the story aloud, pausing to direct the action. Start with Jesus and His disciples on one side of the Sea of Galilee and the crowd on the other side.

Story to Read	Actions
Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee and many followed Him, because they saw how He healed people who were diseased.	Jesus and the disciples cross the Sea of Galilee. As they reach the shore a crowd follows them.
And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.	Jesus and the disciples go onto the mountain and sit.
Then Jesus looked up and saw many people coming toward Him.	Jesus stands and looks. The crowd comes and stands around Jesus and the disciples.
He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He knew what He would do.	Philip stands. He looks at Jesus. Jesus points to the crowd.
Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not enough for them, that every one of them may have a little."	Philip shrugs his shoulders.
One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"	Andrew and the boy stand and bring the loaves and fish to Jesus.
Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.	Jesus signals the crowd to sit down. The disciples remain standing.
And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.	Jesus takes the loaves and fish and raises them up. He gives them to the disciples to divide and give to everyone.
So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.	The disciples pick up the baskets. The crowd picks up leftover pieces and puts them in the baskets.
Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."	The crowd points to Jesus.

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