

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 25
Feeding the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:13-21)

Theme: The Lord Does a Miracle

I. Underlying Ideas

- A. The Lord alone can perform miracles. Nothing is impossible for the Lord!
- B. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: to strengthen the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and for the sake of the Word.
- C. Each miracle is really a parable teaching us of some good work which the Lord can perform in our souls if we believe in Him and ask His help.
- D. The Lord wants to give us spiritual and natural food.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. The Lord did many miracles while He was on earth. Do you know what a miracle is? It is a wonderful thing that only the Lord can do. Once He walked on the water in a lake to get to a boat His disciples were in. Often the Lord healed people who were very sick. Today we are going to hear about another miracle that He did.
- 2. Once the Lord was in a deserted place with his twelve disciples. He was teaching the people who came to hear Him. There were many people - about 5,000 people. There were men, women, and children. And now it was getting toward mealtime, and there was very little food to eat. The disciples told the Lord that there were five loaves of bread and two fishes. Could you feed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fishes? No. But the Lord can do miracles. Let's hear what happened. Let's hear the story from the Word.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read the story from Mark 6:31-44.
- 2. Show children a picture of the story (see enclosed picture by Mir Synnestvedt).
- 3. Clarify the main parts of the story for the children.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Why did the Lord take the disciples up on the mountain? (They needed to rest and to eat.)
- 2. Why did so many people follow them up the mountain? (They saw the Lord going there.)
- 3. What did the Lord do when He saw the people there? (He taught them many things.)
- 4. Toward evening the disciples asked the Lord to send the people away to get food. What did the Lord say? (You give them something to eat.)

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5. How many loaves of bread did they have? (Five)
6. How many fish did they have? (Two)
7. What did the Lord do with the food? (He did a miracle to make it enough food for all of the people to eat.)
8. First, He looked up to heaven and blessed the food. Then, He broke the loaves of bread and gave them to the disciples to pass around to the people. And He divided the two fish among them all, also. How many people were fed? (Five thousand.)
9. Were there any leftovers? (Yes. The leftovers filled twelve baskets.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Wasn't that a wonderful miracle? The Lord can do anything, can't He? He fed all of those people. Did you know that the Lord feeds us, too? He gives us all of the things we use for food such as apples and carrots and nuts. He gives us the sun and the rain to help our food grow in our gardens and on farms. The Lord wants us to have good food for our bodies.
2. We need food for our minds, too. When we learn about the Lord it is like getting food for our minds.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Oh, who can make a flower?" *First Songs for Little Children*, p. 23.
2. "When I'm Happy I Like to Sing" *First Songs for Little Children*, p. 2.
3. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245.

B. Activities

1. Finger plays: let the children create their own motions to the songs listed above.

C. Project: Collage of the Lord with Loaves and Fishes

1. Materials Needed

- a. Colored construction paper, 9"x12"
- b. White construction paper
- c. Glue sticks
- d. Markers
- e. Little round crackers for bread loaves
- f. Goldfish crackers for fish
- g. Brown paper for baskets - optional

2. Motivation

- a. It is getting late in the day. There are many people with the Lord and His disciples. There are no stores or restaurants nearby. There are no houses nearby. Where will the people get food to eat? Can you show how the Lord helped the people?

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3. Procedure

- a. Have children draw a picture of the Lord on white paper. (Seeing a sample project or pictures of the Lord may help children who are unsure of drawing the Lord.) Cut around the Lord and glue onto a larger piece of paper.
- b. Let children take five round little crackers for bread loaves and two goldfish crackers for fish. Glue on the picture.
- c. Some children may want to add a basket, disciples, or some of the many people who came to hear the Lord.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the Lord feeding the five thousand.
- B. See enclosed color illustration done by Mir Synnestvedt.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 5, Mark 6, "The Loaves and Fishes," pp. 80-96.

And when the Lord had taken the five loaves and two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples to set before the people; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. (Mark 6:41-42)

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