

General Church Education



Feeding the Five Thousand

Mark 6:32-44

Lesson 20

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Mark 6:32-44

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

A large group of people followed the Lord to a mountainside where He taught them many things. Late in the day everyone was hungry. He fed five thousand people with the only food available: five small loaves of bread and two fish. This miracle demonstrates how the Lord provides for all our needs, both natural and spiritual, when we look to Him.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ When the Lord was in the world people flocked to Him to hear His teachings and to be healed.
- ❖ These stories are about natural life but they picture what the Lord does for our spirits and our minds.
- ❖ The Lord showed His power over the natural world when He fed people by miraculously multiplying food.
- ❖ The Lord taught us to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." He knows we need food for our bodies and food for our spirits.
- ❖ We find food for our spirits by reading the Word and are nourished by it if we take it into our lives.

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The Lord made the five loaves of bread and two fish feed many people.

He wants to share His love with everyone.

He wants everyone to know Him and love Him.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ Today's story is about another miracle the Lord did. Do you remember what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing done by the Lord.)
- ♦ Can you remember another miracle the Lord did when He was on earth? (Turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.)
- ♦ How many water pots were there? (Six.)
- ♦ What went into the pots? (Water.)
- ♦ What came out? (Wine.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

In this story the Lord is going to make a very little food miraculously become enough to feed five thousand people. Five thousand is a very large number of people!

Jesus and His disciples wanted to talk together. They rode in a boat across a lake to a deserted mountain place. When people saw they were leaving, they ran around the lake and gathered there so that they could also hear Him. They knew about the wonderful things the Lord had done and were eager to hear Him speak.

When Jesus saw them, He felt "compassion" for them. That is, He felt deeply sorry for them. They were looking for good ways to live their lives but could not find any. The story says they were like sheep without a shepherd. They had no one to lead them in good ways. So He taught them and they were so interested that they stayed to listen all day even though they had no lunch.

By late afternoon everyone was getting very hungry. The disciples became worried and asked the Lord to send the people away to nearby villages so they could buy food to eat. But the Lord said, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples did not know what He meant. The disciples did not have any food to feed them. They certainly did not have enough money to buy food either. Then Jesus asked the disciples to go and see how much food the people had. Among all the people there were only five small loaves of bread and two fish. Does that seem like enough to feed such a large group of people?

The Lord told the disciples to have everyone sit on the grass in groups of hundreds or fifties. Then He looked up to heaven, blessed the food and broke the loaves apart. Listen to what happened as the Lord's disciples passed out the food.



Read **Mark 6:38-44**.

Did everyone get enough to eat? (Yes.)

How much food was left over? (Twelve baskets of fragments or small leftover pieces.)

How many people were fed? (Five thousand.)

Was this another miracle? (Yes, another wonderful thing done by the Lord.)



There was much more left than the five loaves and two fish that they had in the first place. You can imagine how surprised everyone must have been. But the Lord has all power. He created everything to begin with, so He was able feed all the people there.

The Lord gives us our food too. He is the One who created the plants and animals. He sends the sun and rain to make things grow. He gives us everything we need for our natural life. He also gives us food for our minds in His Word. When we read or hear stories from the Word, the Lord gives us true ideas and good feelings that make

us want to use true ideas in our lives. The Lord loves everyone. He wants all people to be eager to hear His Word and come to love Him in return.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **How did the Lord feel when He saw all the people gathered on the mountain?** (He felt compassion. That is, He felt deeply sorry for them and wanted to help them.)
- ♦ **What did He do to help them?** (Taught them many things.)
- ♦ **When it was late in the day, what did the disciples want the Lord to do with the people?** (Send them away into villages to buy food.)
- ♦ **What did the Lord say?** (You give them something to eat.)
- ♦ **What food did they have there?** (Five loaves of bread and two fish.)
- ♦ **What did the Lord do with the food?** (Blessed it, broke the loaves into pieces and gave it to the people.)
- ♦ **What do you think the Lord was showing people with this miracle?** (That He has all power; that He loves everyone and wants to take care of everyone.)
- ♦ **How would you have felt if you had been there?**

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Matthew 7:24-27



Project choices:

Feeding the Five Thousand project
Color a picture of the loaves and fish



Songs:

Praise Ye Our Father—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-praise-ye-our-father/>

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-savior-like-a-shepherd-lead-us/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Say the Lord's prayer. Discuss what it means when we ask the Lord to "give us this day our daily bread." Point out our need for natural food when we are hungry. Then talk about how we need "food" from the Word when we are trying to understand what to do or how to act.
- ❖ The Lord is called the Bread of Life. Bake bread. Talk about good grains and other foods that the Lord provides. Thank the Lord as you break the bread and eat the warm slices, perhaps with butter and honey or jam. The Lord truly is good to us and provides for all our needs.
- ❖ Count with gold fish crackers. Count out groups of fifties to get an idea of how many that is.

Feeding the Five Thousand

This project simulates a small amount of food being miraculously multiplied by the Lord.

Supplies:

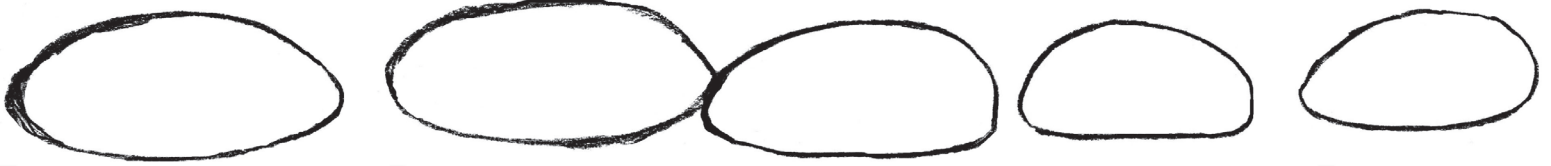
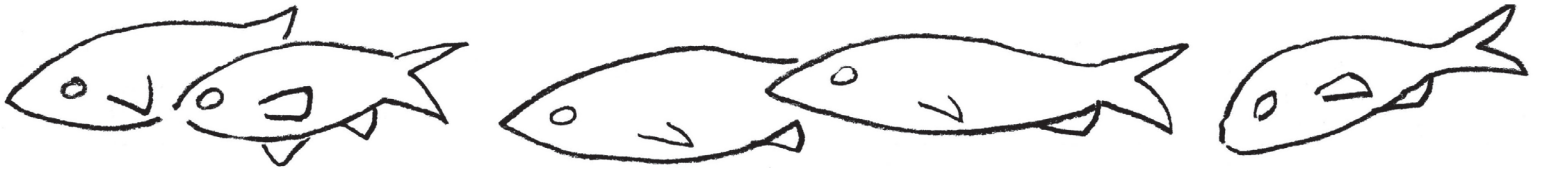
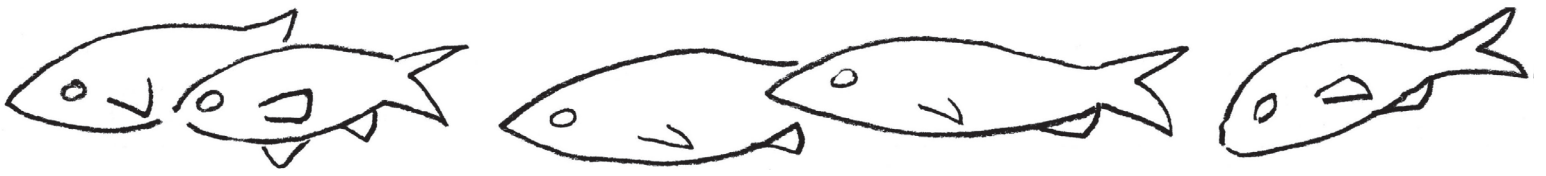
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scissors
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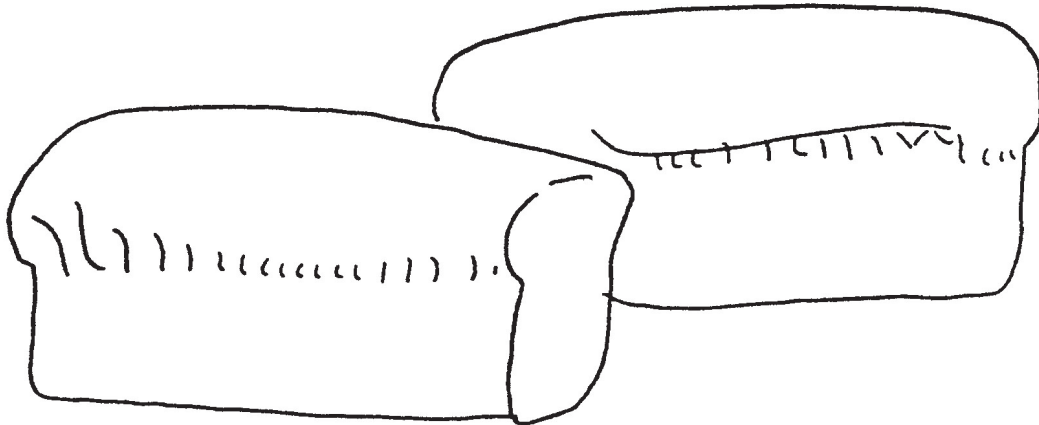
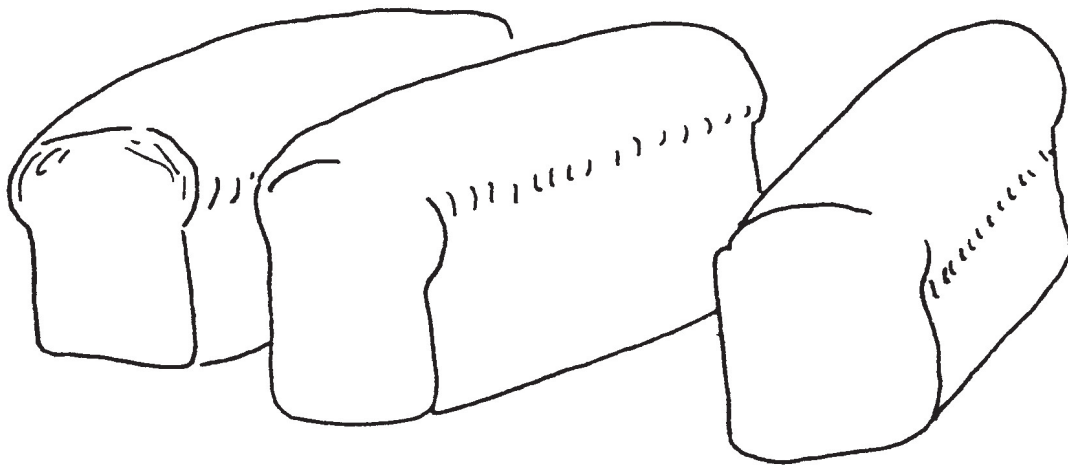
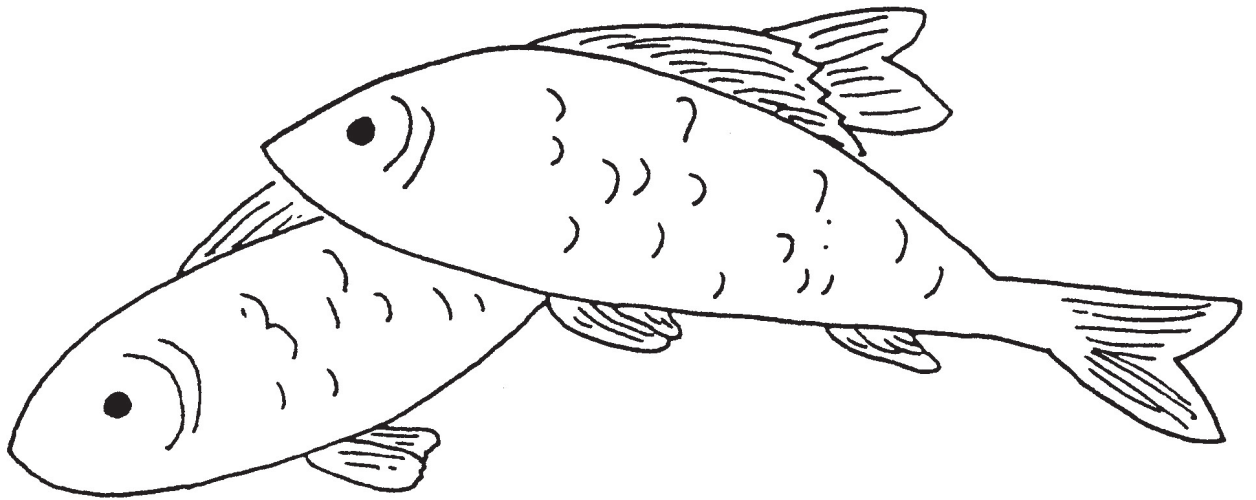
Project instructions:

1. Using crayons or markers, color the picture of Jesus and the basket.
2. Cut along the two dotted lines to make 2 slits in the page.
4. Color the fish and loaves of bread. Cut apart the strips on the dotted lines.
5. Tape the strips together to make one long piece. Put all the fish next to each other with one of the pieces with the two overlapping fish to the far left. Then add all the bread strips.
5. Put each end of the long strip through the slits in the basket from the back, leaving most of the long strip behind the picture. Leave only two fish and five loaves of bread showing on each side of the basket slits.
6. Now you can tell the story of the miracle of the loaves and fish. Pull both ends of the paper strips out to show how a little food was multiplied into much more.









Recitation Award: Feeding the Five Thousand

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

