"I Was Hungry..."

Feeding the 5000

John 6:1-14

Level A

Ages 3-6

Series Theme: You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.

Lesson Focus: When we serve others we are serving the Lord because He is in each one of us.

Reading Summary: Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee. A great multitude followed Him up on to a mountain because they had seen Him heal the sick. Jesus and His disciples sat down. Seeing a multitude coming, Jesus asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for them to eat?" Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough to feed them." The disciple Andrew said, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." About five hundred people sat down. Jesus took the loaves and the fish, gave thanks, and gave them to His disciples to distribute. When the people were filled, He asked the disciples to gather the remaining pieces. They gathered twelve baskets of leftover fragments. Then the people said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Lesson 1		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	**Sing a Song**	**For I Was Hungry...** directions p. 2	Video available at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song/
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	**Read the Word and Talk About It**	see *Reading Summary* above discussion guide p. 2	Bible or copy of John 6:1-14
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	**Act It Out** children recreate the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000 while the teacher reads the story	**Feeding the 5000** directions p. 3 *Feeding the 5000* p. 5	open space for acting, blue sheet or other fabric for Sea of Galilee, crackers or bread, fish (plastic, real, or goldfish crackers), 12 baskets (or as many as you can gather)
	Make color a picture of the Lord preparing to feed the 5000 and add multiplying bread and fish with fingerprints	**Fingerprint Fish and Bread** directions pp. 4-5 *Feeding the 5000 Background Picture* p. 6	washable markers or finger paints in two or more different colors, pens, moist rags or wipes for clean up *optional*: old shirts to protect clothing
	Coloring Picture	**Feeding the 5000** p. 7	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	**Memory Verse** introduce the memory verse for the week	**Memory Verse** *Parent Notes* p. 8	

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1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

For I Was Hungry…

Supplies needed: large soft ball, internet access, equipment to show video of song

Start by welcoming everyone. Then sit in a circle on the floor. Roll a large soft ball to a child in the circle. As the child receives it, he or she says his or her name and then rolls it to another child. Repeat the activity until all children have said their names.

For the next seven lessons we will be talking about parables the Lord told and miracles He did while He was on earth. The Lord came on earth to teach us how we should live so that we can go to heaven. He told us six things that we should do for others in order to become angels. Let's listen to a song and see if we can hear what these six things are. Play song at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song/. What did the Lord tell people to do? (Feed the hungry, give thirsty people a drink, help people who need clothes, be kind to strangers, visit people who are sick or in prison.) Today will learn more about feed-ing the hungry.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: John 6:1-14. An array of teaching pictures are available online, e.g. www.bitly.com/SMJohn6.

How do you feel when you are hungry?

One day a large crowd of people followed the Lord high up on to a mountain. They had seen Him heal people who were sick and went to see Him. The disciple Philip saw them coming. Why was he worried? It was getting late and he knew that the people would be hungry. They did not have much food, and he realized that it would take a lot of food to feed so many people.

Who had some food? A boy.

What did he have? Five barley loaves and two fish. Let's use our fingers to show how many this is. Hold up five fingers on one hand for the bread, and two fingers on the other hand for the fish.

How many people were hungry? About five thousand. That's a lot of people!

What did the Lord tell people to do? Sit down on the grass.

What did the Lord do with the loaves and the fish? He blessed them, and then He gave them to His disciples to give to all the people.

What did they do with the fragments or pieces that were left after everyone had eaten? They gathered them up into baskets. There were so many fragments that they filled 12 baskets with them.

This was a miracle—a wonderful thing done by the Lord's power. The Lord made the fish and the grain that was used to bake the bread. So He could make more and more food as it was needed. He makes all the food we eat too—which is why we thank Him when we eat our meals.

The Lord gives us another kind of food in His Word—food for our minds and spirits. We can remember this food every day when we say the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread."

When the Lord talked about serving others the first thing He said was, "I was hungry and you gave Me food." And when people asked how they could have done this if they had never given Him food, what did He tell them? That in serving others we are serving the Lord—because He is with each one of us.

We can remember this teaching by sharing our food with others or by offering food to others before we eat. You could also talk to your parents about more ways in which you can share food.

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3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

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. 5 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. 5).
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. 5, 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

Choice Fingerprint Bread and Fish

In our story, the Lord feeds 5000 people, starting with only five loaves of barley bread and two small fish. This miracle is a picture of how the Lord satisfies our spiritual hunger for true ideas and good feelings. He blesses them and causes them to multiply in our lives. Children will create a picture of the Lord preparing to feed the people.

1. Hand out the *Feeding the 5000 Background Picture* (p. 6) and ask the children to point out the Lord and the large crowd of people, waiting to be fed.
2. Have you ever been really hungry? Imagine all those people feeling hungry, sitting down in the grass waiting. What did the Lord give them? (bread and fish)
3. The bread is like good things the Lord gives us. What are some good things that the Lord has given you? (family, friends, food, toys, etc.)



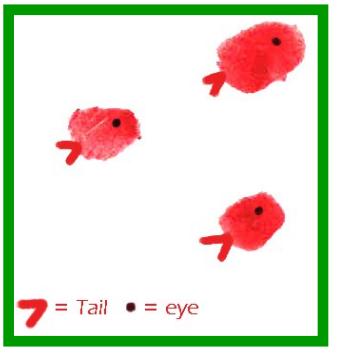
Materials Needed for Each Child

copy of *Feeding the 5000 Background Picture* p. 6, washable markers or finger paints in two or more colors, pen, moist rag or wipe for cleanup; *optional*: old shirts to cover clothing

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Fingerprint Fish and Bread *continued*

4. *Optional*: If using cover-up shirts, help the children put them on.
5. Teach children the following method to make fingerprints to represent the bread in the basket beside the Lord. If using washable markers, color the tip of one finger with a marker, and then press the fingertip down on the paper. Reapply the marker as needed. If using finger paints, dip the tip of a finger into the paint and press on the page. As soon as you are finished making prints, show the children how to clean their fingers.
6. The fish the Lord gave the people is like true ideas that He gives us in His Word. You can picture them swimming around in your mind! Do you know a true idea about the Lord? (He loves us, He takes care of us, He wants us to love each other, etc.)
7. Demonstrate the process of making fingerprints to represent the fish on the other side of the Lord. Show the children how they can add eyes and tails with a marker or pen. (See picture above.)
8. When the projects are finished, help children clean their hands. Remind the children that the picture shows the bread and fish the Lord gave to the people. It can also remind us of the many good things and true ideas that the Lord gives to us.



New Church Concept Nourishment

Spiritual life needs nourishment and support just as much as natural life does; so it is said to be famished when a person is deprived of knowledges…. *Apocalypse Explained* 386

Choice

Coloring Picture: Feeding the 5000

Hand out copies of *Feeding the 5000* (p. 7) and invite the children to color it.

Materials Needed

copies of *Feeding the 5000* p. 7; crayons, markers, or col-ored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

We will be building a Memory Verse of Matthew 25:35-36, phrase by phrase each lesson, starting with the first phrase, below. The recitation has been set to music with actions for easy learning. Watch online at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song-actions-to-memorize/. This sing-along video repeats the song and actions three times.

For I was hungry and you gave Me food.
Matthew 25:35

Closing

The Lord provides all our food and wants us to share it with others. When we serve people in this way we are really serving the Lord, because He is with each one of us.

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 8) to children as they leave.

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Feeding the 5000

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

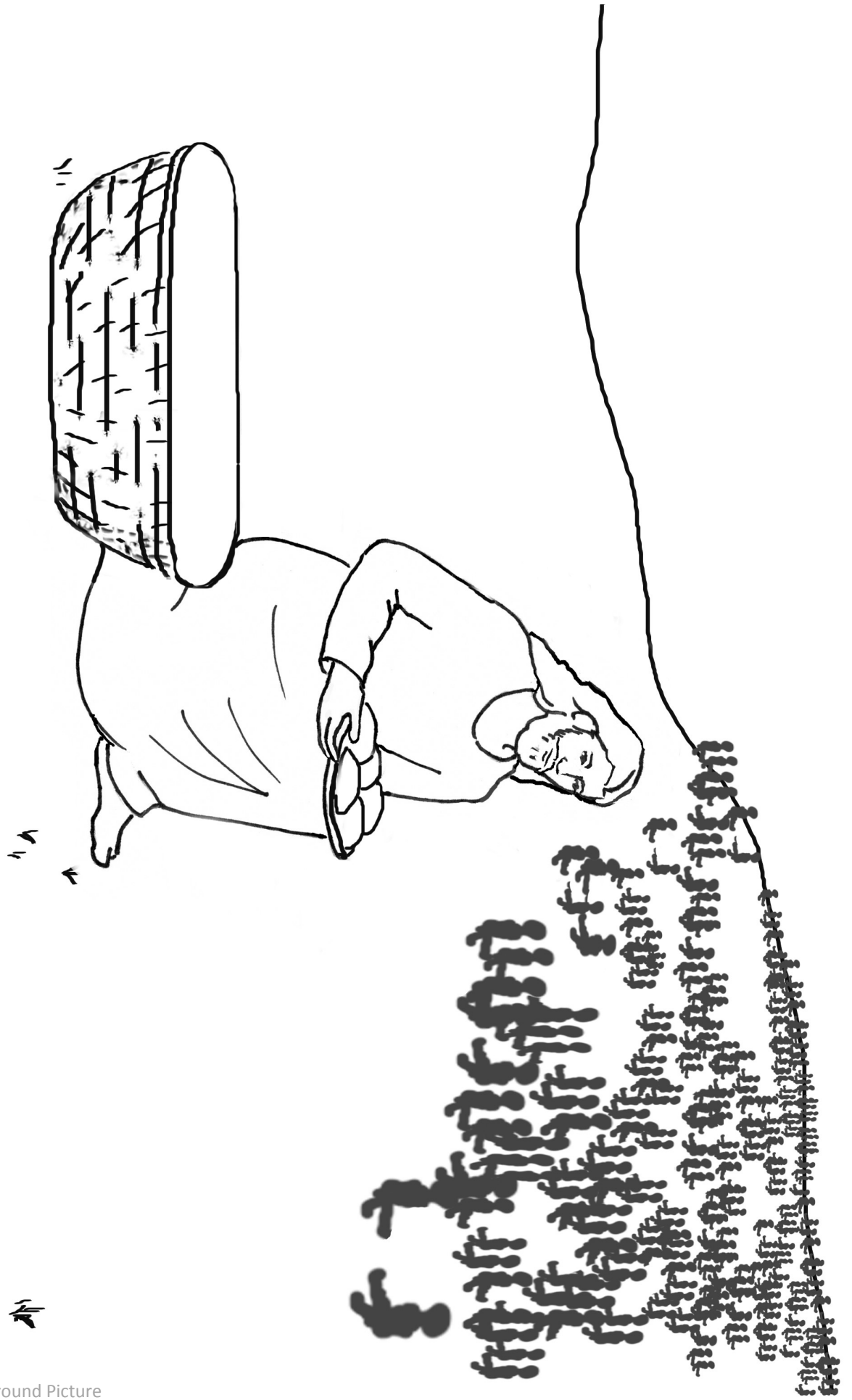
Set-Up: Create an open space, large enough for everyone to be able to sit on the floor beside a sheet or towel. Spread a blue sheet or towel out on one side of the acting space to represent the Sea of Galilee. Put the baskets on the other side of the acting space (the "hill").

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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Feeding the 5000 Background Picture



Feeding the 5000

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,
Today we began a series on learning about serving others. Today we learned that when we serve other people, we are also serving the Lord. Please ask your child about how the Lord fed 5000 people with five loaves and two fish.

We are learning the Lord's words from Matthew 25:35-36. We will be adding one phrase each lesson. We encourage you to help your child remember these verses by repeating the phrase below once or twice in the morning, at mealtimes, or before bed. You can also watch a song with words and actions at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-for-i-was-hungry-song-actions-to-memorize/.

Memory Verse

For I was hungry and you gave Me food.
(Matthew 25:35)

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