

Date: 31/05/20	
Theme:	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Preparation:	<p>Read the lesson plan below.</p> <p>There are two possible activities.                      For icing biscuits, you'll need some plain biscuits and some icing (either icing sugar to make your own or some tubes of icing) and some decorations, if you like.</p> <p>For the picnic, you'll need a picnic rug and your picnic food, ideally something involving bread and fish (e.g. tuna rolls or sandwiches). You can of course take your iced biscuits if you have made some.  <i>You can have the picnic in your garden, inside or in a local park. Please remember social distancing to keep your family and others safe.</i></p>
Opening prayer:	<p>Lord, please help us to listen and learn so we know more about your love for us so we can grow in faith.                      Amen</p>
Introduction	<p>Are you hungry?                      We're going to have a story first and then we might eat something. Can you be patient?</p>
Story:	<p>There are some stories in the Bible which involve children. Today we're going to listen to one of these.                      (Reference John 6:1-15)  <b>Jesus feeds the five thousand</b>  <i>Read the story below. You may want to do this sitting on your picnic rug.</i></p> <p>This story is about a miracle. If you don't know what a miracle is, you should by the end of this story. Only God can do miracles!</p> <p>Jesus had sent the twelve disciples out into the country and gave them the power to heal sick people and tell others about God's love. When the disciples returned, they met with Jesus to tell Him about all the people they talked with and had healed. They were all very excited to tell Jesus about their adventures.</p> <p>The problem was that people followed the disciples, so they could find Jesus. They had seen the miracles He had done and wanted to see more. But Jesus knew the disciples wanted to talk to Him, so He said to them, "Come with me and we will find a quiet place to talk and get some rest."</p> <p>So they went away in a boat to find a quiet place. But many people saw them leaving and ran after them on land. The boat was slow and many people actually got to the other side of shore before them.</p> <p>When Jesus and the disciples arrived, they noticed the large crowd. Jesus felt love for these people because He knew they needed a teacher and</p>

were keen to learn. He knew that the disciples would understand, so He began teaching the large crowd.

It was starting to get late in the day and none of the people had eaten for some time. The disciples came to Jesus and said, "There is no food around here and its already getting late. Maybe we should send the people away so they can go to the surrounding towns and get themselves something to eat."

But Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples didn't think that they understood Jesus right and said, "We can't feed all these people; we haven't enough money to buy bread for everyone!"

While the disciples were talking to Jesus, one of the disciples called Andrew noticed a small boy walking by with a small lunch. He stopped the boy and asked him what he had. Andrew ran over to where the disciples were talking to Jesus and said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many people?"

Jesus smiled and said, "Ask everyone to sit down."

There was lots of grass to sit on so everyone had space -- all five thousand of them. After everyone was seated, Jesus took the loaves of bread and thanked God for them. Then the disciples passed around the bread and everyone could take as much as they needed. He did the same with the fish.

Remember, these were five small loaves of bread and two small fish - only enough for a boy to eat. There were five thousand people all eating from this boy's small lunch, and they could eat as much as they wanted.

After everyone was full, Jesus asked the disciples to gather all the food that was left, so nothing would be wasted. After they gathered everything, they counted up the baskets. There were twelve still full with some bread and fish from the boy's lunch.

His small lunch wouldn't have filled one of the baskets before Jesus touched it, and that is a miracle! After the people realized what had happened, they said to each other, "This must be an important person sent from God."

Discuss with the children to ensure they understand the story. Through this amazing miracle, Jesus demonstrated that He could—and would—provide.

Activity:	<p>Icing biscuits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Make up some icing or get icing tubes and decorations.</li><li>2. Decorate your plain biscuits with fishes, boats or something else from the story.</li></ol> <p>Have a picnic.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Play a memory game. The first person says, "I went on a picnic and I ate (first item)"; the second person says, "I went on a picnic and I ate (first item) and (second item)". Keep going adding items of food until someone gets the order wrong or leaves something out.</li><li>2. Before you eat, say the following prayer: Thank you for the world so sweet Thank you for the food we eat Thank you for the birds that sing Thank you God for everything.</li><li>3. Eat your 'loaves and fishes' (e.g. tuna rolls or sandwiches), your iced biscuits and the rest of your picnic.</li></ol>
Closing prayer:	Say during the picnic