



Jesus Cares (Part 1) Feeding 5000 (Part 1)

January 23–24

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15

The Big God Story

Jesus Cares: Jesus Feeds 5000

While Jesus and His disciples were sailing in the water, Jesus saw a lot of people walking along the shore. Soon there were thousands of people. Can you help me count to one thousand? *Hold up your fingers and count one to ten together.*

Oh my, I don't think we'll be able to count that high right now. I don't think we have time to count to one thousand today.

Jesus knew these people wanted to hear more about God. So Jesus and His friends stopped and talked with all of the people because He cared about them. Some of the people were sick, so He healed them and made them feel better. Jesus cares so much for the people that He wanted to give them what they needed.

It started to get dark and the people were getting so hungry. The disciples, Jesus' friends, didn't know what to do. They only had five loaves of bread and two fish. How many fish did they have? That's right, two. How many loaves of bread did they have? *Encourage responses.* That's right, five.

There were a lot of people but there was not a lot of food. Jesus' friends brought Him the food because they didn't know how to feed all of those people with just a little bit of food. What do you think Jesus did? Jesus cared so much for the people, and He wanted them to eat.

So He held the food up to heaven. Then He asked God to bless the food.

Jesus started to break up the food and put it into baskets. The baskets kept filling up. There was so much food! The disciples passed out the food to the five thousand people. Wow, that's a lot of people. Everyone got to eat! There was even food left in the basket after everyone had eaten. Jesus did a miracle!

Did Jesus care about the people? Yes, He did. He gave them food when they needed it. Does Jesus care about you? Yes, He does!

Jesus gives us what we need all of the time. I'm so happy that Jesus cares about the people in The Big God Story, and that He cares about me and that He cares about you!

Blessing

Kids, may you know that Jesus cares about you so much.

Activities

Jesus Cares

Jesus showed that He cared for His followers by miraculously multiplying the fish and loaves. Kids love hearing their own name, so play a game that utilizes that to reinforce that Jesus cares for each of them. Have them sit at the table or in a circle. Use the phrase “Jesus cares for_____”. One at a time, fill in each kid’s name. When you say their name, have them quickly stand up and run around the table or circle and sit back down.

Jesus showed how much He cared for His followers by multiplying the bread and fish. Jesus cares for each of us, too. He makes sure we have everything we need. In this game, I’m going to say “Jesus cares for___”, and then I’m going to say one of your names. When you hear your name and only your name, you will jump up and run around the group and then, sit back down. Only go when I say YOUR name. Ready?

Loaf and Fish (and peanut butter)

Make peanut butter sandwiches and goldfish crackers on the side. While you are constructing the sandwiches, talk about the miracle that Jesus performed, by making 5 loaves of bread into thousands. While pouring the goldfish onto the plates, talk about how Jesus made 2 fish into thousands of fish. Ask the kids “Who can do that?” “Only Jesus”

Let’s spread on the peanut butter. This is only one loaf of bread. In our story, Jesus took 5 loaves and made them into 1000’s for all the people to eat. Let’s shake out some goldfish for each of us. Think about how Jesus took only 2 fish and turned them into thousands of fish. Who can do that? Only Jesus can do that! How cool is Jesus magic?

Multiply

In our story, only one boy brought food to eat. He had 2 fish and 5 loaves, but there were 5,000 people to feed. So Jesus multiplied it to be enough. Use M&M’s, skittles, peanuts, cheese cubes, pretzel rounds or any other small snack. Put one piece of the snack for each person playing on a paper plate. Each person should take one piece to eat. Talk about how that wasn’t very much to go around and nobody had enough. Have kids close their eyes so you can fill the plate. When the kids open their eyes, explain how, now, there is more than enough.

Jesus’ followers did not have enough food for them to eat. But, Jesus used His Jesus Magic and performed a miracle so that there was more than enough. Who wants to play one more time?

Matthew 14:20

Practice the hand motions with this short Bible verse at home. Be blessed by the Word.

Let’s learn a new Bible verse today.

“And they all ate (*hand to mouth, like eating a piece of bread*)
and were satisfied (*rub your tummy*).

And they took up twelve baskets (*show all 5 fingers of both hands and then just the index fingers*)
full of the broken (*put hands together in a fist, palms down, then up and out, like breaking a stick*)
pieces left over.”

Matthew 14:20