



OCTOBER 4, 2026

JESUS FED A CROWD

MATTHEW 14; MARK 6; LUKE 9; JOHN 6

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. This miracle showed that He is God's Son. Jesus is the Bread of Life. **He meets our greatest need—not just for food, but for forgiveness and eternal life with God.**

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why do we need to be born again? Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.

MEMORY VERSE

John 11:25



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only public miracle, other than Jesus' resurrection, recorded in all four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We should pause and ask, “Why this one? What about this miracle made it so unforgettable that no Gospel writer could leave it out?”

We can get a clue toward the importance of the miracle through its framing in the book of Luke. The miracle sits between two key questions: “Who is this?” (Luke 9:9), asked by a bewildered and disturbed King Herod, and “Who do you say that I am?” (Luke 9:20), asked by Jesus of His disciples immediately following the miracle.

Throughout the book of Luke, Jesus declares important truths during meals. From the dinners at Pharisees' houses to the last supper, meals in the book of Luke often carry significant meaning. And this miracle of feeding the 5,000 is no different. It's not just a moment of compassion—it's a moment of revelation and foreshadowing. It's the answer to the questions posed by Herod and Jesus Himself.

It's fitting that Luke ends the section with Peter's declaration: “You are the Christ of God.” That's where every true encounter with Jesus should lead. The one who takes, blesses, breaks, and gives is not merely a miracle-worker. He is the Messiah—the one who fills us, sustains us, and saves us. And when we recognize Him as such, our only right response is the same as Peter's worship and confession declaring, “You are the Christ.” This week, lead kids to be ready to answer the question, “Who is Jesus,” by recognizing Him as Messiah and Lord.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or practice the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

John 11:25 ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we’ll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we’re learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room’s memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on October 25!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS FED A CROWD

Jesus had been teaching and healing people. He got into a boat with His disciples to go to a quiet place to rest. But many people saw Jesus and His disciples leaving. Crowds ran ahead and met them when they reached the shore! Jesus looked at the large crowd of people and had compassion for them. He cared for them like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He taught them about God's kingdom and healed those who were sick.

As the day went on, the disciples came to Jesus. "It's getting late," they said. "Send the people away so they can find food."

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples were surprised. They said, "We would have to work for months to buy enough food for everyone!" Andrew, one of the disciples, said, "There's a boy here with five small loaves of bread and two fish, but that's not enough for so many people."

Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups. Jesus took the loaves and fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks. Then He broke the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to the disciples to pass out. Something miraculous happened. The bread and fish never ran out! The people—about 5,000 men plus women and children—ate as much as they wanted. When everyone was full, the disciples gathered 12 baskets full of leftovers. The people saw this miracle and said, "This really is the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Later, Jesus taught the crowd again. "Don't work for food that will only last a short time," He said. "Work for the food that lasts forever. I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty."

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. This miracle showed that He is God's Son. Jesus is the Bread of Life. He meets our greatest need—not just for food, but for forgiveness and eternal life with God.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

CRAFT: BREAD & FISH CHAIN

Pass out the provided instructions along with paper, scissors, pencils/pens, and crayons/markers.

****Be sure that when you cut the shapes there is part of both edges uncut—otherwise the shapes will come out individually instead of connected***

CONNECT THE DOTS

Today we learned how Jesus provides for our needs. When we unfold our chains, it looks like the food is multiplying like how Jesus multiplied the boy's lunch to feed a crowd of thousands.

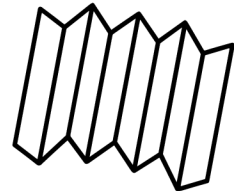
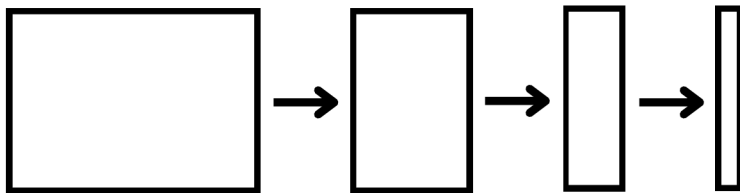


BIBLE SKILLS: SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Spend time working on scripture memory! Write this month's memory verse on the board and have the group read it together. Then take an eraser and remove 1-2 of the words. Have the group read the verse again filling in the blank spaces where you removed words. Erase 1-2 more words and repeat. Keep going until they can say the whole verse from memory!

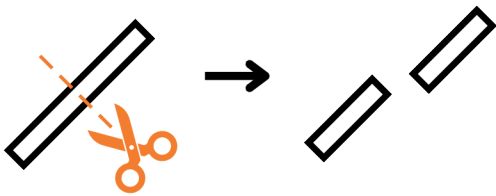
CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS

1) Fold the piece of paper in half multiple times creating a layered/accordion style strip.

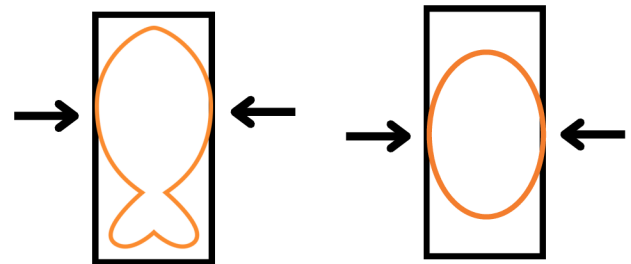


Should look like this!

2) While folded, cut the strip in half. One half will be the fish and the other half the bread.

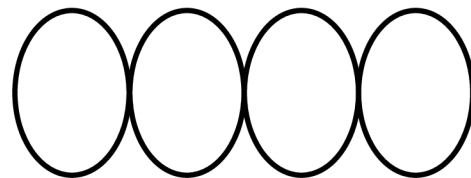
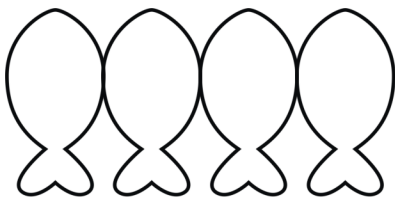


3) Draw the outline of a fish and bread on the strips, making sure to include both edges in the image.



4) Cut the outline of the shapes making sure **NOT** to cut the points where the outline touches the edge of the paper.

5) Unfold and watch the fish and bread multiply like when Jesus multiplied the food to feed the 500! Color and add detail as desired.



CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. How did the miracle of Jesus feeding the crowd show that He is God's Son?
2. What is every person's greatest need?
3. How did Jesus meet our greatest need?
4. How can we follow Jesus' example and show love and compassion to others?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!