

Life of Christ

Jesus Feeds a Big Crowd

Matthew 14:13-21

Younger Verse

God is able to do much more than we ask or think.

Ephesians 3:20

Older Verse

God is able to do much more than we ask or think through His power working in us.
Ephesians 3:20

Lesson Goals

Learn about Jesus' compassion for people
Recognize that Jesus has the power to do anything
See that we need to give God all of our lives

Welcome Time

Have you ever received a gift that was much more than you expected? How did you feel? Today we will learn how Jesus turned a little into a lot, and He blessed a lot of people.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

In our last lesson, we learned that Jesus was sad about John the Baptist being killed. He had gone away from the crowd to be alone. But the crowd followed Him. Instead of running away or telling the people to leave, Jesus had **compassion** for the people. He healed them and taught them many things about God.

Ask: Do you know what compassion is? Compassion is a feeling of pity for someone who is hurting. It causes you to want to help the person. Jesus said that we are to have compassion for other people. This shows them that we care about what they are going through.

It began to get late in the day. The sun was going down. The people were not close to home; they had come from all over the area to see Jesus. So Jesus' disciples began to worry about what the people would eat. They told Jesus to send all the people away to get food.

But Jesus told His friends that *they* should feed all the people! The Bible says that there were about 5,000 men, not counting women and children! This means there may have been around 20,000 people there! The disciples saw all the people. All they had was a little boy's lunch: five loaves of bread and two fish. That wouldn't even feed the disciples!

But Jesus had a plan. He told the disciples to bring Him the bread and fish. Then He directed the people to sit down in groups on the grass. He took the small meal and prayed to God, thanking Him for the food. Then He split up the food and gave some to His friends. Then they passed it out to the people.

Do you wonder how far they got before running out of food? They NEVER ran out of food! The Bible says that every person ate until they were filled up!!! And they

even had twelve full baskets of food left over! Jesus had performed a great miracle that day.

Jesus could have just given the people enough for a small snack and sent them home. But He did more than that. He gave them all they needed and more. And He does that for us, too! Jesus looked at us and had compassion. He knew that all people have a hunger for God. So He made a way for everyone to have a relationship with God.

Jesus gave His life so that we can live with Him forever. His death on the cross became the sacrifice for the sins of all people. When we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He gives us a new life. He takes the little that we have and makes it into something great, just like He did with the little boy's lunch!

What are you waiting for? Do you want Jesus to make your life into something great? Give Him all of your heart, and He will give you so much more in return. He gives forgiveness from our sins, the Holy Spirit to guide us, and the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. And that is just the beginning! We begin an adventure with Jesus that lasts a lifetime!

Review Questions

1. What is compassion? (feeling pity for someone and helping them)
2. What did the disciples tell Jesus to do? (send the people away to get food)
3. What did Jesus say to the disciples? (He told them to feed the people)
4. What did Jesus use to feed the huge crowd? (5 loaves of bread & 2 fish)
5. Was there food left over? (yes) How much? (12 full baskets)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He has the power to do anything. Pray that we will give Him everything we have so that He can do amazing things through our lives.

Life Application

Jesus turned a food shortage into an all-you-can-eat buffet! He can change things in our lives, too! Maybe you think you are no good at anything. You feel like everyone has more talent than you. Jesus wants to take the little ability you think you have and turn it into something great.

The Old Testament is full of examples of ordinary people who did extraordinary things for God. You know how? They gave themselves to God and allowed Him to work through them (Moses, David, Gideon, Joshua, etc.) God is waiting for us to give Him our lives so He can do extraordinary things through us.

Notice that before Jesus multiplied the food, He praised God. He wanted all the glory for the miracle to go to God. When we have success, we need to remember that everything good in our lives comes from God. Give Him the glory!

Planning for Next Lesson
Jesus Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-36

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Feeds a Big Crowd

Jesus was traveling and many people came to hear Him talk about God. It was a special time to listen and hear how much God loved people and cared for everyone.

When Jesus saw the crowd, He knew that they were far from home and that they were probably hungry because it was supper time. He might have heard their stomachs rumbling (make a rumbling sound). It was a long way from home and there were many, many people.

Jesus' friends told Him that He needed to send the people away so they could find food.

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

Another of Jesus' friends told Him that a little boy had brought five loaves of bread (count to 5) and two little fishes (count to 2). (Have a paper sack with some bread and tuna in it as a prop.) Jesus asked His friends to bring Him the lunch.

Jesus knew what He was going to do. He told His friends to tell the people to sit down. They did this. All the people sat in groups like we are. When they counted them, they found out that there were about 5,000 people there (that's more people than a school or these apartments!)

Next, Jesus prayed, thanking God for the food. Then He broke the bread and the fish into pieces and had His friends pass it out to the people. Every person received as much as they could eat. They all ate and ate until they were stuffed. (Teacher: you may want to bring goldfish crackers to pass out to everyone or even make tuna fish sandwiches.)

After the supper, Jesus had His friends pick up the leftovers. The lunch had fed many, many people, AND it took twelve baskets to hold all the leftovers! (Count to twelve) The people were amazed at the miracle Jesus did. He made one little lunch feed lots and lots of people!

The little boy shared his lunch with lots of people. We need to share too. We can share our toys and be nice to others like the little boy did.

Sing this cute song to the tune of "Happy Birthday."

One boy had two fish (hold up 2 fingers)
and five loaves of bread (hold up 5 fingers)
He shared them with Jesus (hold hands out palms up)
Lots of people were fed (wiggle fingers to show lots of people)

Hands-on Activities For Jesus Feeds a Big Crowd

Play a fishing game using a stick, some yarn and cut-out fish. Write one word of the Bible verse on each fish. Once all of the fish have been “caught,” have the group work together to put the verse in the right order.

Bring sardines and bread. Let the kids try the sardines if they want to.

Have kids make paper baskets. Put goldfish crackers in them. Tell them they can share their snack with others. Then they can come back and get more for themselves. (Make sure you have plenty!)

Make a paper chain of hearts. Talk about how when we give Jesus our hearts, He is able to multiply our lives. He can use us to help others know Him. Then His kingdom grows!

Bring in large bowls and dump in fruit loops, miniature colored marshmallows, Cheerios, raisins, (chocolate chips is also a possibility) or other snack foods. The children all have a turn stirring the mixture. Put a plastic bag inside a small Styrofoam cup. The children scoop some of the mixture into the bag inside the cup. Attach a card with a "TO" and "FROM" and the verse from the lesson on the back. The children color and decorate the card. They get to fill another sandwich bag for themselves and so leave church with one for a friend and one for themselves.

Sing, “My God is so Big, so strong and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do.”