

# GOD'S BIG PLAN

## Jesus Has Power Over His Creation Matthew 14:13-33

**Supporting Scriptures:** Mark 6:30-52; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-21  
Job 9:8; Psalm 65; 93:4



**Lesson Goals:** To see that Jesus is Creator.  
To see that Jesus has power over His creation.  
To see that God can meet all of our needs.

**Scripture Memory** My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Don't read it. Tell it as a STORY. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

**The Lesson:** Let's review what we have learned so far. (Review the previous stories, focusing on the ones that specifically point to Christ's birth. Encourage more and more students to share.)

What do you remember about the beginning of time? Who was in the beginning? (God.) Who is God? (God the Father; God the Son, Jesus; God the Spirit, the Holy Spirit.) Do you remember that they were in the beginning with God, because they are God, one God. What did God create in the beginning? God's book, the Bible, tells us that everything was created by God. He created everything in heaven and on earth. God created everything that can be seen and everything that cannot be seen. If it has ever been created, God created it!

Do you also remember what happened long ago in a simple stable? A baby was born. But this wasn't just any baby. God sent His One and Only Son into the world. God didn't send His Son to be born in a palace, but a stable. And God didn't send out golden birth announcements to tell everyone of this birth. God sent angels to tell shepherds who told everyone they saw. Years later, God also used Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, to get people ready to hear God's message and accept God's Son. John had done just that, but he had made enemies along the way by telling the truth. One of those enemies was King Herod. John's punishment was death.

**READ: Matthew 14:13 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

Have you ever been so sad or tired that you just wanted to be alone? That is how Jesus felt after hearing that John the Baptist had been killed. There were so many people around Jesus and His disciples, though. So Jesus told His disciples, "Come with me. Let's go to a quiet place." They crossed the Sea of Galilee so that they could be alone. But they had been recognized. The crowd who had seen Jesus perform miracles, ran from where they were, around the sea and got to the other side before Jesus. When Jesus and His disciples came ashore, tired and wanting some time alone, there was the large crowd!

You know what, though? Instead of being selfish and insisting on time for Himself, Jesus saw the crowd and cared for them. They looked to Jesus like sheep who needed a shepherd. He didn't want to send them away; He wanted to help them. Jesus healed the sick and taught them. He taught them many things and day turned into evening. They had been all day traveling and listening and learning. Now they were hun-

gry. There was a problem, though. There were no restaurants here, no convenience stores selling snacks. The disciples thought it would be better to send the people away to the villages around them, but it was far. Jesus already had a plan. "You give them something to eat," He told the disciples. Philip answered, "But it would take at least eight months' pay just to buy bread for all of these people." Then, one of the other disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Peter's brother. He said, "I've met a boy. He brought his lunch and has five small loaves of bread and two fish. But how far can it go with such a big crowd?"

Jesus was about to show them just how far it could go. Jesus instructed the disciples to put everyone in groups of 50 and 100. When they did, they realized that there were about 5,000 men, not to mention women and children! Then Jesus told God thank you for the boy's lunch of five small loaves and two fish and He began tearing the bread into smaller pieces. Bread and fish were given to everyone, as much as they wanted to eat! Everyone ate until they had enough and there were even leftovers! The people knew something amazing had just happened. They knew Jesus must be the One that God had promised so long ago.

When all the leftovers had been picked up, Jesus made the disciples get in the boat and head back across the sea. Then he sent the crowd away. After He sent the crowd away, Jesus went up on a mountain-side by Himself to pray. By now, it was dark, but even so, Jesus was aware that the sea was rough and could see the disciples struggling in the boat. Jesus continued to pray until very early in the morning. Then He went out to the disciples. There was no other boat, but Jesus didn't need one! Jesus walked on the water. Jesus walked out to His disciples. When they saw Him, they screamed, "It's a ghost!" They were terrified. So, Jesus spoke to them and told them not to be afraid. Peter had an idea, "If it's really you, Lord, tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus said. And Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter noticed the wind and the waves, he became afraid again and he began to sink. Jesus saved him and the two climbed into the boat. As soon as they did, the wind died down. The disciples had seen some pretty amazing things that day. They worshipped Jesus, right there in the boat, and they said, "You really are the Son of God!"

**Review:**

Let's review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Did you know that Jesus could take so little food and multiply it? It reminds us of when He started with absolutely nothing. Back then He just spoke and light was created. Who created the grain that bread is made from? (God.) And who created the fish in the sea? (God.) So, why should it surprise us when God, who created all that we see, wants to do something amazing with that creation?

What else can we learn from our lesson that will help us every day? Think back to Jesus multiplying bread and fish. Why did He do that? (Because the crowd, and probably the disciples and Himself) were hungry. Do you think that God knows when you are hungry? (Yes.) Will you ask Him for what you need, when you need it, and watch Him do amazing things for you, too?

Think back to Jesus walking on water. What happened when the disciples saw Him? (They screamed. They thought He was a ghost and they were terrified.) What did Jesus do? (He told them not to be afraid and He climbed into the boat with them.) Jesus was with them; there was no need to be afraid. Is Jesus with you? How can you know? Well, have you ever asked Him to be with you? That's what it takes. You need to realize that because of your sin, you need Him to clean up what you can't. You should also believe that He's God's Son; He came to take the punishment for your sin, was crucified, buried and then rose again! Tell God the things you've done. Tell Him you need Him. Ask Him to come be with you. And just as sure as Jesus climbed into the boat to be with His friends, He will come into your life to be with you! And then, if you do become scared, you can know that God is with you and there is nothing this God cannot do!

**Planning for Next Week**  
**Lesson 37 • Jesus Has Power Over Sickness**  
**John 9**

# PRESCHOOL LESSON

**SING:** “My God is So Big”

**SHARE:** One day, Jesus was teaching the people. He taught them many things. He taught them for such a long time that when He finished, it was evening. Now they were hungry. There was a problem, though. There were no restaurants there, no convenience stores selling snacks. The disciples thought it would be better to send the people away to the villages around them, but it was far. Jesus had a plan. “You give them something to eat,” He told the disciples. Philip answered, “It would take at least eight months’ pay just to buy bread for all of these people.” Then, one of the other disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Peter’s brother. He said, “I’ve met a boy. He brought his lunch and has five small loaves of bread and two fish. But how far can it go with such a big crowd?”

Jesus was about to show them just how far it could go. Jesus told the disciples to put everyone in groups of 50 and 100. There were about 5,000 men there, not to mention women and children! Then Jesus told God thank you for the boy’s lunch of five small loaves and two fish and He began tearing the bread into smaller pieces. Bread and fish were given to everyone, as much as they wanted to eat! Everyone ate until they had enough. There were even leftovers!

When all the leftovers had been picked up, Jesus made the disciples get in the boat and head back across the sea. Then Jesus sent the crowd away. After He sent the crowd away, Jesus went up on the side of a mountain by Himself to pray. Jesus continued to pray until very early in the morning. Then He went out to the disciples. There was no other boat, but Jesus didn’t need one! Jesus walked on the water. Jesus walked out to His disciples. When they saw Him, they screamed, “It’s a ghost!” They were terrified.

Jesus spoke to them and told them not to be afraid. Peter said, “If it’s really you, Lord, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” Jesus said. And Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter noticed the wind and the waves, he became afraid again and he began to sink. Jesus saved him and the two climbed into the boat. As soon as they did, the wind died down. The disciples had seen some pretty amazing things that day. They worshipped Jesus, right there in the boat, and they said, “You really are the Son of God!”

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for making a lot out of a little and for being able to do anything!

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Make door hangers. Copy the memory verse onto the door hanger and decorate.
- Bring five small loaves of bread and 2 fish to class in a small basket. As you prepare to tell the story, sit on the floor among your students. As you tell of the young boy's lunch, uncover your basket and begin to take bread and fish out, showing them to your students. You'll be amazed at how it captures their attention!
- Reenact the story with the basket (mentioned above) as well as a cardboard box boat and blue tarp sea.
- Make an origami boat out of an old newspaper.
- Play the game "Breadbasket Turnover."
- Sing "With Jesus in Your Boat," "My God is So Big," "King of the Jungle."
- Make construction paper lunchboxes. Cut each end to look like the handles of a briefcase. Fold the construction paper lunchbox in half. Fill with five small loaves of construction paper bread and two paper fish.
- Make a bread collage. Encourage students to search magazines for pictures of bread. Mount pictures on construction paper allowing space across the bottom for the memory verse.