

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 22

**JESUS FEEDS 5,000
PEOPLE**

MARK 6:30-44

Life of Christ

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

Mark 6:30-44

Younger Verse

Nothing is too hard for you!

Jeremiah 32:17

Older Verse

You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm.
Nothing is too hard for you!

Jeremiah 32:17

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus cared for the disciples' and the people's needs
See that Jesus taught His disciples how to serve others
Recognize the miracle of multiplying the food

Opener

When you are really hungry, is it hard to share your snack or meal with someone else? Jesus showed His disciples how to care for others even when they were tired and hungry.

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. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned about when Jesus sent out the disciples. When He sent them out, He gave them special powers from God. He told them to teach people about God and heal their sicknesses. When the disciples returned to Jesus, they were very excited! They told Him of all the amazing things that happened. They had the chance to be used by God.

While they were talking, many people were coming and going. They didn't even have time to eat and rest. Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourself to a quiet place and get some rest." He knew they had been gone for a long time and were tired and hungry. So Jesus had them get into a boat to find a quiet place. However, many people saw Jesus leaving. They really wanted to see Jesus.

Jesus and the disciples arrived and stepped out of the boat. Many of the people had gone over to the other side of the lake to meet them. When Jesus looked at all the people, He had compassion on them. He cared for them. They were like sheep without a shepherd to Him. So Jesus began to teach them about God's love.

It was late in the day, and the disciples were still tired. They were ready to go. So they went to Jesus and said, "We are far from any place to get food, and it is getting late. Send the people back to the villages so they can get some food." Jesus answered them by saying, "You feed them."

The disciples looked at all the people and realized that it would cost a lot of money. They said to Jesus, "It would take eight months' pay to feed all the people here!"

Jesus knew that His disciples did not understand His power yet. So He asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have? Go and see." They went and found out they had

five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus had His disciples put all the people into groups of 50 or 100 people. Jesus took the bread and fish into His hands. He looked up to Heaven and thanked God for it. Then He began to break it into small pieces for His disciples to pass out. Everybody ate until they were satisfied. Once everyone was full, the disciples walked around to pick up the leftovers. There were 12 baskets full of leftovers! The Bible says that there were over 5,000 people there listening and eating with Jesus.

Jesus showed His power that day. The disciples had already seen Him calm a storm, heal people, and raise a girl from the dead. Now they knew that He could provide for their needs as well.

Do you believe that Jesus can take care of you? He wants to be your friend. He died on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins and live with Him. He showed His power over death by raising from the dead three days after He died. He wants to live in your heart and help you with your life. Will you let Him in?

Review Questions

1. Why did Jesus take the disciples in the boat to another place? (So they could get some rest.)
2. What happened when Jesus and the disciples reached the place they were going? (When they got out of the boat, crowds of people came to them.)
3. Why did the disciples want to send the people away? (It was getting late and there wasn't enough food for everyone.)
4. What did Jesus do to solve the problem? (He multiplied the fish and bread so that everyone ate until they were satisfied.)
5. How much food was left over? (12 baskets full)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He takes care of our needs. Pray that we will recognize the needs of others and try to help them.

Life Application

Jesus wanted His disciples to learn the importance of taking care of others even when they were tired. It is important for us to remember this. As a follower of Jesus, we need to think of others before ourselves. When we are faithful to do things the way God wants us to, Jesus can use us to do amazing things.

Jesus promises to always take care of us. He provided more than enough food for the thousands of people. He can take care of our needs as well. Jesus said that He came to give life, and give it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Planning for Lesson 23
Jesus Walks on Water
Mark 6:45-56

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

We have learned about when Jesus sent out the disciples. When He sent them out, He gave them special powers from God. He told them to teach people about God and heal their sicknesses. When the disciples returned to Jesus, they were very excited! They told Him of all the amazing things that happened. They had the chance to be used by God.

They were in a very busy place, so there were many people walking all around them. With all the activity, they had not had a chance to eat. How do you think the twelve friends felt? Yes, very hungry. So Jesus said, "Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest."

They all climbed into a boat and began to go across the water. The other people noticed that they were going to the other side. So what do you think they did? They ran to the place where the boat was going! They must have really wanted to be with Jesus!

Once the boat arrived on land, Jesus saw all the people. He knew his special friends were hungry and tired, but He knew that those people really wanted to be with Him. He saw them as little sheep without a shepherd to lead them anywhere. Jesus taught them about God's love.

It started to get later in the day. The twelve special friends went to Jesus and said, "Everyone will get hungry and there is not any food close to where we are. You should send them home."

Jesus looked at them and said, "You feed them."

Well, this was not what the friends expected Jesus to say. They looked around at all the people and said, "Jesus, we would have to work eight months to get enough food to feed all these people!" Jesus knew that they did not understand His power yet.

He told them to go and find out how much food there was. They came back with five loaves of bread and two fish. Was that a lot of food? No! But Jesus had a plan. He had them divide all the people into small groups and sit down.

He took the food and thanked God for it. Then he broke it into many pieces for the friends to pass out. Do you think they had enough? The Bible says that everyone ate and was satisfied. That means everybody had full stomachs! They even had 12 baskets of food leftover. Altogether, there were over 5,000 people.

Jesus took care of those people and His special friends. Jesus takes care of us, too. And He wants us to take care of others. We may not be able to feed 5,000 people, but we can help in other ways. What are ways we can help others? (Discuss ways they can be helpers.)

Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross and came back to life. He did that for you and me. We are also like little sheep without a shepherd if we are not following Jesus. Jesus wants to be in your life. If you want to know how to be a sheep that follows Jesus, ask me before you leave.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

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!)

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.

Take your kids on a picnic. Bring tuna fish and bread or goldfish crackers to eat.

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!

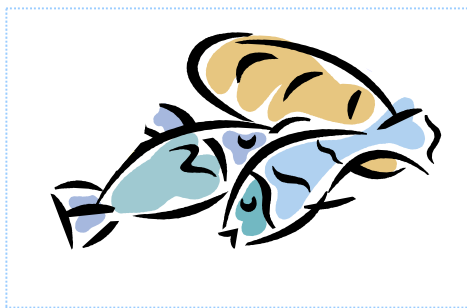
Bring in large bowls and dump in fruit loops, miniature colored marshmallows, Cheerios, chocolate chips, or other snack foods. Let each child have a turn stirring the mixture. Put a plastic bag inside a small Styrofoam cup. The children scoop some of the mixture into the bag inside the cup. Attach a card with a "TO" and "FROM" and the verse from the lesson on the back. Let children color and decorate the card. Then they can fill another sandwich bag for themselves.

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

Nothing is too
hard for you!
Jeremiah 32:17

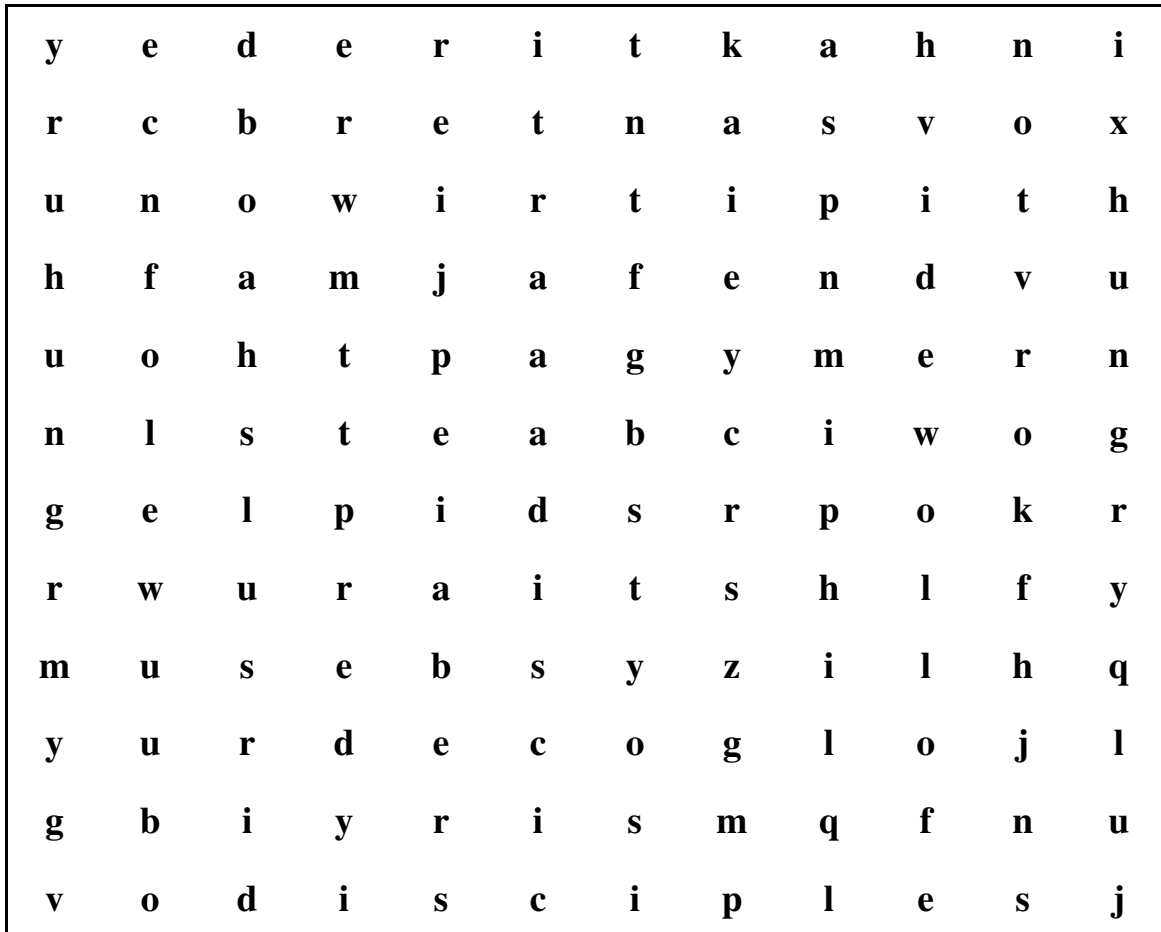


**You made the
heavens and earth
by your strong hand
and powerful arm.
Nothing is too hard
for you!
Jeremiah 32:17**



Word Search

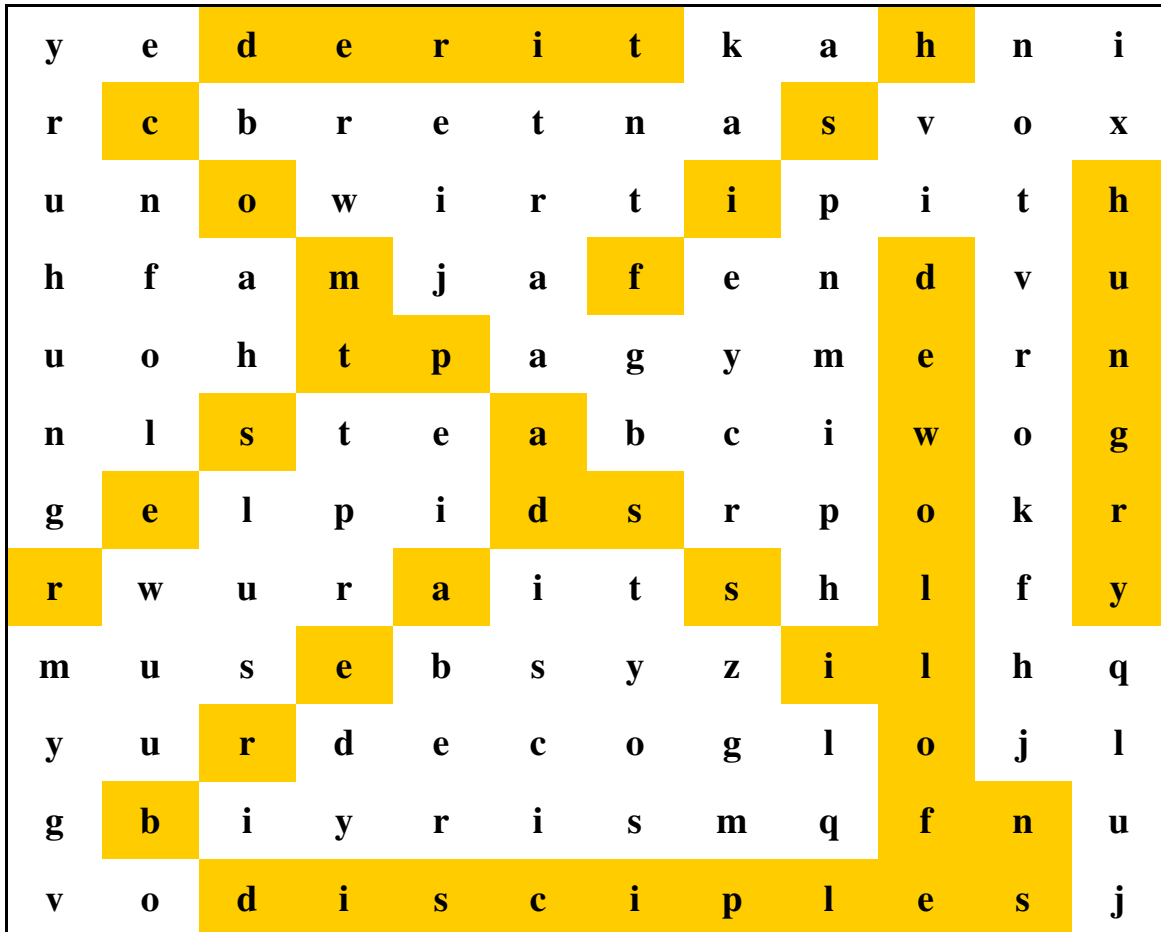
Jesus Feeds 5,000 People



bread	fish	hungry
tired	disciples	rest
crowd	followed	compassion
sheep	twelve	baskets

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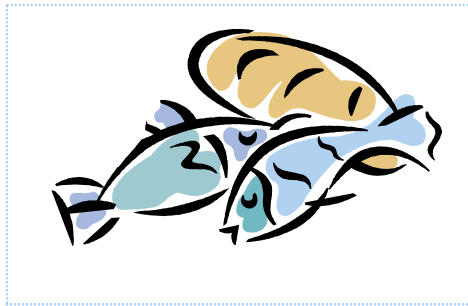
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Fill in the missing numbers.

Jesus used ____ fish and ____
loaves of bread to
feed 5,000 people.



Jesus cared about the people's

Needs