

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Scripture:

John 6:1-13 (Matt. 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:10-17)

Materials Needed:

Pictures of story
Can of sardines, five pita bread

Memory Verse:

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Jesus tested Philip by asking where they would get enough bread, Philip didn't know and Andrew didn't think that a boy's 5 loaves and 2 fish was sufficient either, but Jesus gave thanks and multiplied the food, and afterwards the disciples gathered 12 baskets full.

To Realize—When one is doing a God-given task, and doesn't know where to get the resources, he should go to Jesus, knowing that He will supply all that he needs.

To Respond by—going to God for the resources for his God-given task.

Setting up the Story:

Draw a stick figure on the board with a speech bubble. I want you to imagine this is a friend of yours. And they come to you and say: "If I follow Jesus, He might make me ___." (OR "He might not let me ___.") What might your friend say? (Write answers on the board.) This is a fear that I had when I was thinking about what it would mean to follow Jesus. (Share what I was afraid Jesus might ask me to do.) The reason this lesson is special to me is because Jesus' disciples were given a job they couldn't do.

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Jesus Asks Philip a Question
 - A. 5,000+ men
 - B. There for awhile=hungry
 - C. They don't need to go away: "You give them something to eat."
 - D. **"Where are we to buy bread that these may eat?"**

- II. Philip and Andrew Fail the Test Question
 - A. 200 denarii?!

As you tell the story:

Storytell background. Crowds had met them. Teaching all day. Getting late. Disciples wanted Jesus to wrap it up. Jesus said, "You do it." Then he selected lucky Philip for the test question. Look in John 6:5.

Imagine each person got a Happy Meal from McDonalds. How much would that cost?

- B. "How man loaves? Go look."
- C. Andrew: "Five barley loaves and 2 fish. What are these for so many?"

(try to figure out what a crowd of 5,000 would look like within the context of your community—how many congregations? How many students/parents??)
 How do you think the disciples felt as they figured out the size of the crowd?
 Who had given them this job?
 Jesus! So He must have expected them to actually know the answer to the question and do the job. But they are stuck!

- III. Jesus Multiplies the Food
 - A. Everyone sit down
 - B. Jesus gave thanks
 - C. As much as they wanted
 - D. They were filled

Jesus decides to show them the answer: "Tell everyone to sit down."

Jesus didn't hand out the food to the crowd. He gave it to His disciples.
 (Act as if you are a disciple handing out the food as you storytell.) They would hand it out to their group and then they would run out. WHERE did they go to get more bread? JESUS! They would go to the next group, and they would run out again. WHERE would they go to get more bread? JESUS! Do you think they were figuring out the answer to the test questions?

- IV. Disciples Gather 12 Baskets Full
 - A. Jesus tells them to gather
 - B. 12 baskets=12 disciples

Why 12 baskets? One for each disciple. He was trying to see what they had learned: it was a test. And then he had showed them the answer. And as they picked up the leftovers and started putting them in their baskets, I wonder if that is when the answer hit them. "Where are we to get the food to do the job Jesus gave us to do?"

Concluding the Story:

Where DID they find the food to feed all those people? JESUS! It sounds simple, but who had given them the job? We don't have to feed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2

fish, but we find ourselves in God-given situations that seem pretty overwhelming. Maybe it looks like this:

“Where am I to find the time to do these tasks?...”

“Where am I going to get the energy to...”

“How can I do what Jesus is asking me to do?...”

What is the answer to those questions? JESUS. That isn't giving a trite answer. That is pointing us to where we need to run.

Is there something you need to ask Jesus for in order to do what He wants you to do?