

Betty The Basket

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: God multiplies what we give.

Scripture: John 6

Memory Verse: John 6:11, 'Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.'

The Children's Sermon

Ever since the day I was woven together, I've been good at carrying other people's burdens. I've carried their smelly dirty laundry, their pickings from the harvest...I've even carried their babies from time to time! You could say I've got a handle on things. Oh. I'm so sorry, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Betty the Basket. Yep, I've carried just about everything at one time or another...but do you know what was the most exciting thing I ever held? It was five loaves and two fish! You don't think that's very exciting? Well, let me tell you what happened.

I was helping my friend, a boy, and his family. They were all going to see Jesus who everyone said was a great miracle worker. He could do amazing things! I wasn't so sure if I believed all the wonderful things I'd heard about Jesus, but I was glad they were taking me with them to see him. I was carrying five loaves and two fish for the family, because we didn't know how long we would be there, and they might get hungry.

Well, it took a really long time for Jesus to arrive! Everyone was getting impatient...and they were looking at me with hungry eyes and their mouths were watering...it made me anxious, five thousand greedy hungry people staring at me...I was a real basket case!

One of Jesus's followers was walking around asking for food. I was so surprised when the boy said we could give our food. After all, as the Basket I knew I should protect the food for our family. That's what a good basket does! But the boy really wanted to give our food to Jesus.

He gave me to Jesus, and before I knew it, I was hoisted into the air! Normally I would have been scared, I mean I could have toppled over, but I felt so safe in Jesus's hands. I heard him talking, "Father, I thank you for this basket of food." Wait a second...he was talking to God! About me! I felt so special to be lifted up before God...and Jesus said, "Bless this food and multiply it, that it may glorify your name."

What was Jesus talking about? Jesus handed me to one of the followers who carried me out into the crowd. As people started to take bread and fish out of me, I wondered, would there be enough for everybody? But the funniest thing happened...I felt that I wasn't getting lighter...I was getting heavier! There was more bread and fish in me! It was just like Jesus said...the food was multiplied!

Everyone ate as much as they wanted...and yet somehow I was never empty! At the end, I was still full of broken pieces of bread, and 11 of my friends, other baskets, were full too! I was amazed that Jesus could take our little gift and multiply it so that everyone was full.

Now, let's talk a bit more about this miraculous feeding. Imagine being there, sitting on the grass, watching as Jesus took such a small amount of food and made it enough for everyone. It was like a magic trick, but way better because it was real and it showed how much Jesus cares for us.

This miraculous feeding wasn't just about filling tummies. It was a sign that when we give what little we have to Jesus, he can do great things with it. It's like if you have a tiny seed and you give it to a gardener. That gardener can plant it, and with sunshine and water, it grows into a big plant. Jesus is like that gardener, but he doesn't need sunshine and water to make things grow. He can do it just because he is so powerful and loving.

The boy who gave his food to Jesus teaches us something very important. He shows us that no matter how young or small we are, we can still do big things with Jesus's help. It doesn't matter if you think you don't have much to give. What matters is that you are willing to give it to Jesus.

This miraculous feeding also shows us that Jesus cares about our needs. He knew the people were hungry, and he didn't want them to go home with empty stomachs. Jesus cares about us in the same way. He knows what we need and he wants to help us. Sometimes, we might not get exactly what we ask for, but Jesus always gives us what is best for us.

After the miraculous feeding, the people were amazed. They saw what Jesus did and they knew he was very special. But the most important thing wasn't just the miracle itself. It was what the miracle showed about Jesus's power and love. It showed that with Jesus, there is always enough. Enough food, enough love, enough care for everyone.

Let's remember the miraculous feeding and think about what we can give to Jesus. It might be sharing our toys, helping a friend, or giving a smile to someone who looks sad.

Even though these things might seem small, with Jesus, they can turn into something big and wonderful.

Thank you, God, for the story of the miraculous feeding. Thank you for showing us that when we give what we have to Jesus, he can do amazing things with it. Help us to be like the boy who gave his food to Jesus, willing to share what we have. Amen.

So, my friends, whenever you see a basket, remember me, Betty the Basket, and the most exciting day of my life. Remember the miraculous feeding and know that with Jesus, there's always enough.

Bible Memory Verse

John 6:11, 'Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.'

You Will Need:

- 5 small baskets
- 50 small bread rolls (or paper cutouts of bread)
- 5 small fish toys or cutouts

Get Ready:

- Cut out paper bread rolls if not using real bread.
- Place 10 bread rolls (or cutouts) and 1 fish in each basket.

Do This:

1. Tell the children they are going to act out the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Explain how Jesus used just five loaves and two fish to feed a huge crowd.

2. Divide the children into five groups, giving each group one basket. Have them sit down as if they were the crowd in the story.
3. As you retell the story, walk around and pretend to multiply the bread and fish in each basket, encouraging the children to pretend to eat and be filled. Emphasize that Jesus can do amazing things with what we give Him, no matter how small.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- 5 small loaves of bread (or bread rolls)
- 2 small fish toys or cutouts
- A large basket
- Small paper plates for each child

Get Ready:

- Place the 5 loaves and 2 fish in the large basket at the front of the room.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around and show them the basket with the 5 loaves and 2 fish. Explain that Jesus used these to feed many people because a little boy shared what he had.
2. Give each child a small paper plate. Invite them to come up one by one to take a "piece" of the bread (you can pretend to break it or have pre-cut pieces) and a fish toy or cutout to put on their plate, telling them that Jesus can multiply what we give to help others.
3. After everyone has their bread and fish, lead them in a simple prayer, thanking God for providing and asking Him to help us share with others.

Snack Activity: Fish and Loaves Snack Time

You'll Need:

- Goldfish crackers
- Mini bread rolls
- Small paper plates

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and make sure each child has a small paper plate.

Do this:

1. Tell the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with just five loaves and two fish from John 6. Emphasize how Jesus can multiply what we give to meet the needs of many.
2. Give each child a mini bread roll (representing the loaves) and five Goldfish crackers (representing the fish) to put on their paper plate.
3. As they eat their snack, encourage the children to think of ways they can share what they have with others, just like the boy who gave his loaves and fish to Jesus.

Game Activity: Fish & Loaves Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags (5 per child)
- Pictures of fish and loaves (optional)

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground with the sidewalk chalk. Instead of numbers in each square, draw simple fish and loaves symbols alternately in each box. If you're using pictures, place them in the boxes instead of drawing.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that we're going to play a game based on a story from the Bible where Jesus multiplied 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed thousands of people. Each hopscotch square represents the little that was given, and how God can multiply what we give.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid, aiming for the fish and loaves. They then hop through the grid, skipping the square their stone landed on, to pick up their stone on the way back. This represents giving what they have and seeing how God multiplies it.
3. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how even though we might think what we have is too small to make a difference, God can use it and make it into something great. Encourage them to think of ways they can share and give to others.

Craft Activity: Five Loaves and Two Fish

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (blue, brown, green, and any other colors for fish)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Pre-cut the construction paper into shapes beforehand: blue paper into waves, brown into basket shapes, green into small loaves, and other colors into fish shapes.

Do this:

1. Have each child choose a basket, five loaves, and two fish from the pre-cut shapes.

2. Encourage the children to glue the waves on the bottom of their paper to create the sea.

3. Next, they can glue the basket, loaves, and fish above the waves, arranging them as they like. As they work, talk to them about how Jesus used five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude, explaining that when we give what we have to God, He can multiply it to bless many.

Prayer Activity: Little Loaves and Fishes Prayer

You'll Need:

- A small basket
- Paper fish and loaves (cut out from construction paper)
- Crayons or markers

Get Ready: Before the activity, cut out several small fish and loaves from construction paper. You'll want at least one fish and one loaf per child, but having extras is a good idea for this activity to visually demonstrate multiplication.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the children the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes, emphasizing how God multiplied the little boy's offering to feed many. Use simple language and gestures to engage the children.
2. Give each child a paper fish and a loaf. Ask them to think of something small they can offer to God, like a prayer, a kind deed, or sharing a toy, and draw it on their fish or loaf with crayons or markers.
3. Collect all the fish and loaves in the basket. Lead the children in a prayer, thanking God for multiplying what we give and asking Him to use their small offerings to show His love to others. As you pray, gently shake the basket to mix up the fish and loaves,

then redistribute them, giving each child one that someone else decorated to illustrate how our offerings can come back to us, multiplied and shared among many.