

# Betty The Basket

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** God multiplies what we give.

**Scripture:** John 6

**Memory Verse:** John 6:35, Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

## 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 6:35, Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'**

You Will Need:

- Loaves of bread (or slices)
- Water bottles
- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers with bread and water images

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large 'bread' and 'water droplet' shapes.
- Write the memory verse on each shape with a marker.

Do This:

1. Begin by discussing what it feels like to be really hungry or thirsty. Explain how Jesus being the 'bread of life' means that He satisfies our deepest needs.
2. Give each child a 'bread' and 'water droplet' shape. Have them decorate these with crayons, markers, and stickers while you talk about the importance of coming to Jesus for our spiritual 'food' and 'drink.'
3. After decorating, gather the children in a circle. Pass around the loaves of bread and water bottles, letting each child take a piece of bread and a sip of water. As they eat and drink, remind them that just like the bread and water satisfy their physical hunger and thirst, Jesus satisfies our spiritual hunger and thirst. End with a group prayer, thanking Jesus for being our bread of life.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- 5 loaves of bread (or 5 small rolls/buns to represent the loaves)
- 2 fish (two fish-shaped toys or cutouts)
- A basket
- Paper and crayons
- Small snack packs (enough for each child)

Get Ready:

- Place the 5 loaves (rolls/buns) and 2 fish toys/cutouts in the basket.
- Prepare a space where all the children can sit in a circle.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the story of John 6, focusing on how Jesus fed 5,000 people with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Emphasize that God can multiply what we give to Him, no matter how small it seems.
2. Show the children the basket with the 5 loaves and 2 fish. Ask them to imagine feeding a huge crowd with just this small amount of food. Discuss how this might have seemed impossible to the disciples.
3. Pass around the basket and let each child hold it briefly. As they hold the basket, encourage them to think of something small they can offer to God (it could be a kind act, a small chore at home, a prayer, etc.).
4. After everyone has had a turn, hand out paper and crayons. Ask the children to draw or write something small they can offer to God this week.
5. Conclude by giving each child a small snack pack, reminding them that just like Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish, God can multiply the small things we offer to Him and use them in big ways. Encourage them to share their snack with someone else, practicing the lesson of giving and multiplication.

## Snack Activity: Fish and Loaves Snack Mix

You'll Need:

- Goldfish crackers
- Pretzel sticks (to represent loaves)
- Small paper cups or plates
- A large bowl for mixing

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table where all the kids can reach.

Do this:

1. Tell the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish from John 6. Emphasize how Jesus gave thanks and how God multiplied the small amount to feed everyone.
2. Give each child a paper cup or plate. Let them count out 5 pretzel sticks (loaves) and 2 goldfish crackers (fish) to remember the story.
3. After everyone has their 5 pretzels and 2 fish, mix the remaining pretzels and fish in a large bowl. Explain how God takes our little offerings and makes them enough to share with others.
4. Serve the snack mix from the large bowl to all the children, showing how the little they started with can be multiplied to have enough for everyone, just like in the Bible story.

## Game Activity: Fish & Loaves Relay

You'll Need:

- Small bean bags or paper fish and loaves (5 loaves and 2 fish per team)
- Baskets or buckets for each team
- Cones or markers to set start and finish lines

Get Ready: Create fish and loaves from paper or use bean bags to represent them. Set up a relay race track using cones or markers to indicate the start and finish lines. Place a basket or bucket at the end of each team's track to collect the fish and loaves. Divide the children into teams of equal numbers.

Do this:

1. Explain that in John 6, a little boy gave Jesus 5 loaves and 2 fish, and Jesus multiplied them to feed over 5,000 people. Today, they will see how God can multiply what we give, even in a game.

2. At the start signal, the first child in each team races to the basket at the end of their track, carrying a 'loaf' or 'fish.' They drop it in the basket and race back to tag the next player in line.
3. The game continues until all the fish and loaves have been collected in the basket. The first team to finish shouts, 'God multiplies!' To emphasize the lesson, count the fish and loaves with the children, then surprise them by adding extra fish and loaves to the baskets when they're not looking, showing that God always gives us more than we expect.

## Craft Activity: Five Loaves and Two Fishes Basket

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler

Get Ready: Cut out paper fish and loaves shapes beforehand to save time.

Do this:

1. Read John 6:1-14 together, focusing on the boy who gave Jesus his five loaves and two fishes. Discuss how God can multiply what we give to help others.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper to make their basket. Have them fold it in half and cut slits (not all the way through) on the fold to create a weaving pattern. Then, open the paper and staple the ends to form a basket shape.
3. Use the markers or crayons to decorate the fish and loaves cutouts. Encourage the kids to write a message or prayer on them about what they can give to God.



4. Glue the decorated fish and loaves inside the basket, showing how God multiplies our gifts. Each child can take their basket home as a reminder of the lesson.

## Prayer Activity: Five Loaves and Two Fish Prayer Basket

You'll Need:

- A small basket or box
- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Small loaves of bread and fish toys or cutouts

Get Ready: Before the activity, place the small basket or box in the center of your teaching area. Make sure you have enough paper and pens/pencils for each child. Cut out paper fish and bread shapes, enough for each child to have at least one of each.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the story from John 6, focusing on the little boy who gave Jesus his five loaves and two fish. Explain how Jesus used this small offering to feed thousands of people, showing that God multiplies what we give.
2. Ask the children to think of something small they can offer to God this week. It could be a kind act, a prayer for someone else, a small chore at home, or sharing something they have. Have them write or draw this offering on the paper fish or bread.
3. Encourage each child to come forward and place their paper fish or bread in the basket. Lead them in a prayer, asking God to multiply these small offerings, just like He did with the five loaves and two fish. Remind them that no matter how small, anything given to God with a loving heart can be used for great things.