

# Betty The Basket

## UPPER 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 (enough for each child to have a slice)
- Grape juice in small cups
- Index cards and markers

Get Ready:

- Cut the bread into small slices, one for each child.
- Pour grape juice into small cups, one for each child.
- Write 'I am the bread of life' on each index card with markers and leave space for children to write.

Do This:

1. Begin by discussing the meaning of Jesus being the 'bread of life' and how this sustains us more than physical food.
2. Give each child a slice of bread and a cup of grape juice. Explain how these symbolize Jesus' body and blood, and how He nourishes our souls.
3. Have each child take an index card and write or draw what Jesus, the bread of life, means to them personally. Encourage them to share their thoughts with the group if they feel comfortable.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- 5 loaves of bread (small rolls or buns) and 2 fish (could use fish-shaped crackers or gummies for simplicity)
- Basket
- Printable fish and bread tokens (one per child)
- Scissors
- A large open space or room
- "Miracle" envelopes (one per child, containing a small task or kind deed to be done)

Get Ready:

- Prepare the "miracle" envelopes by writing small tasks or kind deeds on pieces of paper that can be done by the children for others (e.g., help someone with a chore, share a toy, give a compliment). Insert one task into each envelope.
- Cut out the printable fish and bread tokens.
- Place the 5 loaves (rolls or buns) and 2 fish (crackers or gummies) in the basket.

Do this:

1. Begin with a storytelling session: Read John 6:1-14, focusing on the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. Emphasize the themes of sharing and how God multiplies what we give.
2. Interactive Activity: Spread the fish and bread tokens around the room. Have each child collect one token and bring it back to the basket. As they do, explain that just as the boy in the story offered what he had, they are offering what they have found. This symbolizes offering our gifts and resources to God.
3. Miracle Envelopes: Once all tokens are collected, distribute a "miracle" envelope to each child. Explain that just as Jesus performed a miracle with the loaves and fish, they can perform small "miracles" or acts of kindness with their envelopes. Encourage them to open their envelopes and commit to completing the task inside within the next week.
4. Reflection: After the activity, gather the children and discuss how it felt to participate in the activity and the importance of sharing and doing kind deeds for others. Highlight how even small acts of kindness can multiply and have a big impact, just like the loaves and fishes.

## Snack Activity: Loaves and Fishes Snack

You'll Need:

- Bread (preferably in a large loaf to be broken apart)
- Goldfish crackers
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- A large basket or tray

Get Ready: Read the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 from John 6:1-14 together as a class. Discuss how Jesus can take something small and multiply it to meet the needs of many.

Do this:

1. Give each child a paper plate. Have them wash their hands before handling the food.
2. Invite the children to take a piece of bread. Explain how the bread represents the loaves that the boy gave to Jesus. Break the bread into smaller pieces together, discussing how Jesus broke the bread to share with everyone.
3. Add a handful of Goldfish crackers to each plate, symbolizing the two fish. Talk about how Jesus used the fish along with the bread to feed the multitude.
4. As they eat their snack, encourage the children to think of ways they can share what they have with others, no matter how small it may seem. Finish by praying together, asking God to help them see opportunities to give and to trust Him to multiply their efforts to help others.

## Game Activity: Fish and Loaves Relay

You'll Need:

- A basket
- 5 small loaves of bread (or objects representing them)
- 2 small fish (or objects representing them)
- Cones or markers to set up a relay course

Get Ready: Set up a relay course with a start and finish line. Place the basket with the 5 loaves and 2 fish at the start line. Divide the children into two teams.

Do this:

1. At the start signal, the first player from each team runs to the basket, picks up a 'loaf' or 'fish', and carries it to the other end of the relay course. They then run back to tag the next team member.
2. The next team member then does the same, either picking a loaf or a fish until all the items are collected at the other end of the course.
3. Once all the loaves and fish are collected, the team sits down together. The first team to sit down after collecting all items wins.
4. After the game, discuss how Jesus multiplied the 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5000 people, emphasizing that God multiplies what we give to Him, no matter how small it may seem.

## Craft Activity: Five Loaves and Two Fishes Basket

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Template of a fish and a loaf of bread (optional)

Get Ready: Prepare templates of a fish and a loaf of bread for the children to trace, or find suitable images online that can be printed and cut out. Also, cut strips of construction paper for making the basket.

Do this:

1. Each child traces and cuts out five loaves of bread and two fishes from the construction paper using the templates or printed images. They can color or decorate these if plain paper is used.



2. While they work on their loaves and fishes, discuss the story from John 6, focusing on how Jesus multiplied the small offering to feed thousands, emphasizing the theme 'God multiplies what we give.'

3. Show the children how to weave a simple basket using the strips of construction paper. They will glue the ends to secure the basket's shape. This basket will represent the boy's offering to Jesus.

4. Once the basket is completed, the children place their loaves and fishes inside. Encourage them to share what they've created with their families and tell the story of the miracle, reinforcing the lesson that no offering is too small for God to use.

## Prayer Activity: Bread and Fishes Prayer Basket

You'll Need:

- Basket or small box
- Paper and pens
- Small loaves of bread and fish cutouts from paper

Get Ready: Prepare the basket or box and place it in the center of the table. Cut out small paper loaves of bread and fish. Ensure you have enough pens for each child.

Do this:

1. Read John 6 together, focusing on the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. Discuss how God can multiply what we give, no matter how small.
2. Ask each child to think of something small they can offer to God this week. It could be a kind act, a prayer for someone else, or sharing something they have.
3. Have them write or draw their offering on the paper loaves and fishes. Encourage them to be creative and think about how their small offering can make a big difference.

4. Each child will then place their paper loaf or fish into the basket or box as a symbolic act of giving their offering to God. Lead them in a prayer, asking God to bless and multiply these offerings to help others.