

Sharing What We Have

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Sharing what we have will always be used by Jesus

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

One day, Jesus did something very special. He took a small gift from a little boy and used it in a big way. This story shows us that Jesus can use the little things we offer to do great things. Just like the boy, we all have something we can share. Maybe we're good at talking to people and making them feel better when they're sad. Or perhaps we can share our time, our toys, or even our snacks with someone who doesn't have as much.

Jesus Feeds 5000 is a story that teaches us about sharing. Imagine if you had a small snack, and your friend didn't have any. By sharing a little of what you have, you can make your friend happy. This is what the boy in our story did. He had five loaves of bread and two fish, which doesn't seem like a lot for a big crowd. But he shared it with Jesus, and something amazing happened.

Jesus took the boy's small gift and made it into a big feast. With just five loaves and two fish, Jesus Feeds 5000 people! That's a lot of people, more than we can count on our fingers and toes. It shows us that when we give what we have to Jesus, He can do things with it that we can't even imagine.

Now, let's think about the gifts we have. It might be being good at sports and showing others how to play fair. When you play games without getting upset and follow the rules, you're showing Jesus' love. Other kids might see how you act and decide to be kind and fair too. Just like the story of Jesus Feeds 5000, your good actions can spread to many people.

Sharing doesn't just mean giving away things. It can also mean spending time with someone who feels lonely or helping out at home without being asked. Every time you do something kind, it's like giving Jesus a little gift. And remember, Jesus can use that gift to do something wonderful.

In the story of Jesus Feeds 5000, the boy's small act of sharing led to a big miracle. Everyone in the crowd got enough to eat, and there were even leftovers. This teaches us that when we share, not only does it help others, but there's often more than enough to go around.

Now, I have these plates with loaves and fish, just like in our story. If you had one, what would you do? The boy in the story shared his, and that's what Jesus wants us to do too. Sharing might feel hard sometimes. We might worry our things could get broken or lost. But Jesus tells us to share anyway because He can do great things with our small acts of kindness.

When the boy shared his food, everyone was fed. That's a pretty cool ending, right? And guess what? I have enough snacks here for everyone! It's a little reminder that when we share, there's always enough to go around.

Let's say a prayer together. Dear Jesus, help us to share like the boy in the story. We want to give what we have to you, knowing you can do amazing things with it. Thank you for teaching us that no gift is too small for you to use. Amen.

Remember, kids, the story of Jesus Feeds 5000 is not just about food. It's about sharing, kindness, and the amazing things that can happen when we give a little. So, let's go out this week and find small ways to share with others. You never know what big things Jesus might do with your small acts of kindness!

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:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into bread slice shapes beforehand.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper 'bread slice' and ask them to write the memory verse on one side using markers or crayons. They can decorate around the edges with stickers or draw their own designs.
2. On the other side of the bread slice, encourage them to draw or write something they are thankful for or a way they can share with others this week.
3. Once everyone is done, gather the children in a circle and have them share their bread slices by reading the verse and explaining their drawing or writing on the back. This helps reinforce the lesson of sharing and being grateful for what Jesus provides.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- 5 loaves of bread (or any similar snack that can be easily shared, like crackers)
- 2 small fish toys or pictures of fish
- A large basket
- Paper and crayons

Get Ready:

- Place the 5 loaves (or snacks) and 2 fish toys/pictures into the large basket.
- Set up a small table or area where the children can draw with the paper and crayons.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the children the story from John 6, focusing on the little boy who shared his five loaves and two fish with Jesus. Explain how Jesus used what the boy shared to feed a huge crowd of people.
2. Show the children the basket with the loaves and fish. Ask them to imagine they were there and had only this small amount of food for all of them. Ask, "Do you think it would be enough?"

3. Encourage each child to take a turn to share the snack from the basket, dividing it among the group, to symbolize the act of sharing what we have, no matter how small it seems.
4. After sharing the snack, invite the children to draw a picture of what they think the scene looked like when Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish. Ask them to include the little boy sharing his food.
5. Conclude by discussing how when we share what we have, Jesus can use it to do great things, just like he did with the loaves and fish. Encourage them to think of something small they can share this week and how Jesus might use that act of sharing.

Snack Activity: Fish and Loaves Snack Time

You'll Need:

- Goldfish crackers
- Small loaves of bread or bread rolls
- Paper plates
- Napkins

Get Ready: Make sure the table is clean and each child has a paper plate and a napkin.

Do this:

1. Tell the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish from John 6. Emphasize how a little boy shared what he had and Jesus used it to do something amazing.
2. Give each child a small loaf of bread (or bread roll) and a handful of Goldfish crackers. Explain that these represent the bread and fish that were shared in the story.

3. Encourage the children to share their 'loaves and fish' with someone else in the class, showing them that when we share what we have, Jesus can use it to bless others.

Game Activity: Fish & Loaves Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space (either outdoors or a big room)
- Several small bean bags or soft items (to represent the fish and loaves)
- Baskets or buckets for each team

Get Ready: Divide the children into two teams. Designate a 'home base' for each team with a basket or bucket placed at each base. Scatter the bean bags (fish and loaves) around the play area at a distance from the bases.

Do this:

1. Explain that just like in John 6, where a little boy shared his five loaves and two fish, they will gather as many fish and loaves as they can to share with their team. The goal is to collect as many bean bags as possible and bring them back to their team's base.
2. When you say 'Go', one child from each team races to gather one bean bag at a time and bring it back to their base, then tags the next player in line to do the same. This continues until all the bean bags are collected.
3. Once all the fish and loaves are gathered, count the bean bags in each team's base. Share a short message about how Jesus used the boy's small offering to do something great, emphasizing that when we share what we have, Jesus can use it to bless many people. The team with the most bean bags has collected the most to share, but remind everyone that in Jesus' eyes, everyone wins when we share.

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

Get Ready: Print or draw templates of a fish and a loaf of bread on a piece of paper. Each child will need 5 bread loaves and 2 fishes.

Do this:

1. Have the children color their fish and bread templates with markers or crayons.

Encourage them to be creative with their designs.

2. While they are coloring, discuss the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes from John 6. Emphasize the theme that sharing what we have will always be used by Jesus to do great things.

3. After coloring, help the children cut out their fish and bread. Then, show them how to fold a piece of construction paper in half to create a basket. They can decorate the basket with markers or crayons.

4. Finally, have the children glue their fish and bread inside the basket. As they work, reinforce the lesson that when we share what we have, Jesus can use it to bless many people.

Prayer Activity: Sharing Loaves and Fishes Prayer

You'll Need:

- Small loaves of bread (or crackers)
- Fish-shaped stickers or cutouts
- A large basket

Get Ready: Place the small loaves of bread (or crackers) and fish-shaped stickers or cutouts in a large basket. Arrange the basket in the center of your activity area where all children can easily reach.

Do this:

1. Begin by telling the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish from John 6. Emphasize how a young boy shared what he had and Jesus used it to do something amazing.
2. Invite each child to come forward and take one piece of bread (or cracker) and one fish sticker or cutout from the basket. As they do this, encourage them to think of something small they can share with others (it could be a toy, time, help, or even a smile).
3. After everyone has taken their bread and fish, lead the children in a prayer. Ask them to hold their bread and fish while praying. The prayer should focus on asking Jesus to help them share what they have with others and to use their small acts of sharing to do great things.