

# Sharing What We Have

## UPPER 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:

- Loaves of bread (enough for each child to have a slice)
- Small cups of water
- Paper and markers

Get Ready:

- Write the memory verse on a large piece of paper or whiteboard where all the children can see it.
- Cut the bread into enough slices for each child and pour water into cups.

Do This:

1. Gather the children and explain that today they will learn about Jesus being the bread of life. Show them the memory verse on the board.

2. Give each child a slice of bread and a cup of water. Ask them to hold onto these as you read John 6:35 aloud.
3. After reading, discuss what it means for Jesus to be the bread of life. How does believing in Him fulfill our deepest needs?
4. Encourage the children to eat the bread and drink the water as a physical reminder of Jesus' promise.
5. Lastly, have the children use the paper and markers to write or draw what the verse means to them. Share these creations with the group to reinforce the lesson.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small loaves of bread and fish cutouts from paper or felt
- Basket
- Printable John 6 scripture verses, cut into strips
- Blanket or large cloth to sit on
- "Miracle" tickets (small pieces of paper with tasks or kind acts written on them)

Get Ready:

- Prepare the small loaves of bread and fish cutouts. You'll need at least five loaves and two fish, but more can be used for a larger group.
- Write or print out verses from John 6 on strips of paper. Make sure there are enough for each child to have one.
- Write simple tasks or kind acts on the "Miracle" tickets, one for each child.
- Lay the blanket or cloth on the floor as a designated area for the activity.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the blanket and share the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 from John 6. Emphasize the little boy who shared his five loaves and two fish.
2. Pass around the basket, asking each child to take a bread and fish cutout. Explain that these represent what we have to offer to Jesus, no matter how small it might seem.
3. Hand out the scripture verse strips and ask the children to find a partner. They should take turns reading their verses to each other, discussing what it means to trust and share with Jesus.
4. Introduce the "Miracle" tickets. Explain that just as Jesus performed a miracle with the boy's small offering, we can be part of miracles today by doing kind acts for others. Have each child draw a ticket from the basket and commit to completing the task or act of kindness written on it by the end of the week.
5. Conclude with a group prayer, asking God to help each child use what they have to serve others and to trust Him to do great things with their offerings, just like the boy in John 6.

## Snack Activity: Five Loaves and Two Fish Snack

You'll Need:

- 5 slices of bread
- 2 cans of tuna
- Mayonnaise
- Cookie cutters (fish and loaf shapes)
- Plates
- Mixing bowl
- Spoons

Get Ready: Read John 6:1-14 together and discuss how Jesus used a small offering to feed a large crowd.

Do this:

1. Use the cookie cutters to cut out 'five loaves' and 'two fish' from the bread slices. Each child can have their own set based on the materials available.
2. Mix the tuna with mayonnaise in the mixing bowl to make a simple tuna salad. This represents how Jesus can take our small offerings and make them into something greater.
3. Spread the tuna salad on the bread shapes and create your 'miracle snack'. As you eat, discuss how sharing what we have, no matter how small, can be used by Jesus to bless others.
4. Encourage the children to think of something small they can share this week and pray together that Jesus would use their offerings to help others.

## Game Activity: Loaves & Fishes Relay

You'll Need:

- Baskets
- Small loaves of bread (or foam blocks shaped like bread)
- Fish cutouts from cardboard or construction paper
- Cones or markers to set up relay paths

Get Ready: Set up a relay race course using cones or markers to create a start and finish line. Place baskets at the starting line, and fill them with an equal number of bread loaves and fish cutouts. Divide the children into teams.

Do this:

1. Explain that the game is based on John 6, where Jesus feeds 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fish. The goal is to share what we have, trusting Jesus to make it enough.
2. When you say 'go,' the first player from each team grabs a 'loaf' or 'fish' from the basket and races to a designated point and back, then passes the item to the next player in line.
3. The relay continues until all the food items have been delivered to the other side. The first team to finish, having shared all their loaves and fishes, wins.
4. After the game, gather the children and discuss how sharing what we have, even if it seems small, can make a big difference when we trust and work with Jesus.

## Craft Activity: Five Loaves and Two Fishes Basket

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- String or yarn
- Hole punch

Get Ready: Prepare small templates of fish and loaves of bread for the children to trace or cut out.

Do this:

1. Discuss John 6 and the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes. Emphasize the theme of sharing what we have and how Jesus can use our small contributions for great things.

2. Have each child trace and cut out five loaves and two fishes from construction paper using the templates. Encourage them to decorate their loaves and fishes with markers or crayons to personalize them.
3. Guide the children in cutting out a basket shape from construction paper. They can then fold and glue the edges to create a 3D basket.
4. Once the basket is ready, punch holes around the top edge and thread string or yarn through to create a handle.
5. Have the children place their loaves and fishes inside the basket. Conclude the activity with a discussion on how they can share what they have with others, just like the boy in the story, and how even small acts of kindness can be used by Jesus to bless many.

## Prayer Activity: Loaves and Fishes Prayer Basket

You'll Need:

- Basket or large bowl
- Paper and pens
- Small loaves of bread or fish-shaped crackers

Get Ready: Place the basket in the center of your gathering area and distribute paper and pens to each child.

Do this:

1. Read John 6:1-14 together, focusing on the boy who shared his five loaves and two fish with Jesus.
2. Ask each child to write or draw something they have (it could be a talent, time, or a physical item) that they can share with others to help spread Jesus' love. Have them fold their paper and place it in the basket.



3. While they do this, pass around the small loaves of bread or fish-shaped crackers. Explain that just like the boy's small offering, what they've written can also be used by Jesus in miraculous ways.

4. Close with a prayer, asking God to help each child use what they've offered for the good of others, reminding them that no act of kindness or sharing is too small for God to use.