



Feeding the Big Crowd

Lesson Aim: To know by sharing with others, you can be part of God's miracles.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God of Wonders

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 6:3-13

What He Has Done: Jesus fed the big crowd.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will remember Your miracles." Psalm 77:11b

Unit 1: Jesus as the God of Wonders			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	Jesus' First Miracle, John 2:1-11	Jesus did miracles so people would believe.	To remember Jesus did miracles.
2	Filling the Nets, Luke 5:1-11	Jesus filled the nets with fish and called His followers.	To know miracles can help people decide to follow Jesus.
3	Calming the Storm, Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calmed the wind and the waves.	To see Jesus' power.
4	Healing Jairus' Daughter, Luke 8:40-42, 49-56	Jesus healed a twelve-year old girl.	To know Jesus can heal us.
5	Feeding the Big Crowd, John 6:3-13	Jesus fed the big crowd.	To know by sharing with others, you can be part of God's miracles.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 111:1-5. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your provision. Inspire the children to share and distribute their resources to Your people. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

What can you expect of a two- or three-year old? Children of this age understand the concept of sharing; they just aren't very consistent about doing it yet. Taking turns is difficult, because they are still developing their concept of time. On the other side, they often love to draw pictures for Mom and Dad or share a snack. You can encourage them by making sharing fun. Do puzzles together, or make a game of taking turns.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME		Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a loaf of bread
		Coloring Center: Feeding the Big Crowd	Coloring pages of Jesus feeding the big crowd, fish stickers, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Care and Share	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: Five Loaves and Two Fish	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food
		Activity Center: Miracle Match-Up	Two sets of 5 ½" x 8 ½" laminated pictures of the five Bible stories in this unit (Jesus turns water to grape juice, Jesus fills the nets, Jesus calms the storm, Jesus heals Jairus' daughter, Jesus feeds the big crowd)
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Will Remember" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "How Wide?" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "With God All Things Are Possible" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me" "My God Is So Big"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 1, Lesson 5
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 6:3-13	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 6:9 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, happy face stickers
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Two Fish and Five Loaves	Paper lunch bags, clay, sturdy paper, eye stickers, label, tape or glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Share with Others	Seven small beanbags (or soft, easy-to-toss items), basket
		Snack: Act It Out	Fish-shaped crackers, bread, water, small plastic bags, basket, cloth
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 5
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 6:3-13	None
	Up to 10	Game: Miracle Ball	Soft ball
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Dance	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Remember"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about any of Jesus' miracles

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as the God of Wonders

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a loaf of bread. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of bread help you remember Jesus fed the big crowd.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: FEEDING THE BIG CROWD

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jesus feeding the big crowd, fish stickers, crayons

DO

Children color while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

What do you see in the basket? (Bread and fish.) **Can you put a fish sticker in the basket?** Give each child a fish sticker to put in the basket on his or her coloring page. **In our story today, Jesus uses a little boy's lunch to feed a big crowd. It was a miracle. Who remembers what a miracle is?** (An amazing surprise only God can do.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: CARE AND SHARE

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children share play-dough and play-dough tools as an introduction to the story.

TALK ABOUT

When we play together, it's important that we share what we have. When you share with someone else, you show you care about them. Let's show each other that we care by sharing the play-dough and play-dough tools. Have children choose play-dough or a play-dough tool to share with another child.

Teacher Tip: Young children are still learning the concept of sharing, so don't expect it to happen naturally with every child. Model sharing yourself and recognize and praise sharing behavior whenever you see it.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food

DO

Children pretend to prepare a meal while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

If you had to feed a very big group of people, what would you feed them? (Children respond.)
Jesus had to feed a big group of people once, and He had no food and no money. What do you think He did? (Children respond.) **He took a little boy's lunch of five small loaves of bread and two small fish and fed everyone. Jesus was able to do an amazing miracle because the little boy was willing to share.**

ACTIVITY CENTER: MIRACLE MATCH-UP

SUPPLIES

Two sets of 5 ½" x 8 ½" pictures of the five Bible stories in this unit (Jesus turns water to grape juice, Jesus fills the nets, Jesus calms the storm, Jesus heals Jairus' daughter, Jesus feeds the big crowd)

TEACHER TIP: Keep these supplies and use them for lessons 1-5.

DO

Children match pictures of some of the things God gives us.

TALK ABOUT

Jesus did many miracles. Do you remember what a miracle is? (An amazing surprise only God can do.)
Let's see if we can match pictures of some of Jesus' miracles. Lay the pictures on the table face down on the table. Children take turns turning over two pictures at a time. When a match is made, talk about the miracle in the picture.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"I	Point to self.
will remember	(remember) Close fists with thumbs pointing out. Start one thumb at the forehead. Move it downward, touching thumbs in front of you.
Your miracles."	(miracles) With fingers open and palms facing forward at shoulder height, move hands forward and up twice (sign for "wonders").
Psalms 77:11b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as the God of Wonders

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Is our God big? (Yes!) Is our God strong? (Yes!) Is our God mighty? (Yes!) Is there anything our God cannot do? (No!) Let's pray to our great God. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we know there is nothing You cannot do. Help us to worship You by remembering Your miracles and sharing them with others. Amen.**



Today, we will learn about a miracle in which Jesus used a little boy's lunch to show the people how much He loved them. Sing: "How Wide?"

Jesus used the little boy's lunch to feed a big crowd of people. The boy who shared got to be a part of that miracle! By sharing with others, we can be part of God's miracles, too. Now, as we give our offering, let's ask God to use it to do miracles in the lives of people all over the world. Play: "Jesus Loves Me" or "With God All Things Are Possible" while collecting the offering.



Let's find out what Delbert & Lello know about the day Jesus fed the big crowd.

Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 1, Lesson 5.



When Jesus fed the crowd with just two fish and five loaves – it was a miracle! Who can tell me what a miracle is? (An amazing surprise only God can do.) Jesus wants us to remember His miracles and share them with others. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice with the motions.

"I	Point to self.
will remember	(remember) Close fists with thumbs pointing out. Start one thumb at the forehead. Move it downward, touching thumbs in front of you.
Your miracles."	(miracles) With fingers open and palms facing forward at shoulder height, move hands forward and up twice (sign for "wonders").
Psalm 77:11b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "I Will Remember."



Jesus fed the big crowd

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 6:9, picture of the Bible story, happy face stickers

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

I have something I would like to share with you today. Show children the happy face stickers and give one to each child. **I'm so glad I could share these with you.**

Have you ever shared a snack or a favorite toy with someone? (Children respond.) **How did the person feel when you shared with him or her?** (Children respond.) **Jesus loves when we share what we have with others. In our story today, a little boy shares his lunch and Jesus does a miracle. Let's listen.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 6:9.



WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 6:3-13

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jesus and His friends were on a mountainside**
- **And a large crowd gathered around.**
- **He said, "Philip, where shall we buy them bread?"**
- **They had no money to feed the crowd.**

- **Andrew found five loaves and two fish**
- **From a boy in the crowd.**
- **Jesus told the crowd to sit on the grass.**
- **He blessed the food and passed it around.**

- **Jesus fed 5,000 people that day.**
- **Bread and fish they each did enjoy.**
- **And 12 baskets were filled with leftovers,**
- **All from one meal from just one boy.**

What did the boy share with Jesus? (Five loaves of bread and two fish.) **What can Jesus do that no one else can do?** (Miracles!)



We can share with others

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: TWO FISH AND FIVE LOAVES

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Jesus feeding the big crowd.

Supplies: Paper lunch bags, clay, sturdy paper, eye stickers, label, tape or glue, crayons or markers

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. The suggested wiggle eyes have been removed as they are a potential choking hazard for this age.

Prepare: Cut two small fish shapes out of sturdy paper for each child. Fold down the top of the lunch bags until the bags are half the original height. On a label, print:

**Jesus Fed the Big Crowd
John 6:3-13**

Optional: Use purchased children's play dough or make your own. Instead of eye stickers, have the children draw eyes on the fish. Use cloth bags or paper pockets instead of paper bags.

Directions:

1. Give each child a handful of clay.
2. Children make five small loaves of bread from their ball of clay.
3. Children place the loaves of bread in their lunch sack.
4. Give each child two fish.
5. Attach an eye sticker to each fish. Decorate with crayons or markers.
6. Place the two fish in your lunch bag with the loaves of bread.
7. Place the label on the bag.
8. If there is time, children may decorate their lunch bags.

Craft Discussion:

- **How many small fish did the boy share?** (Two small fish.)
- **Who did Jesus share the fish and loaves with?** (The crowd.)
- **How many baskets were filled with leftovers?** (Twelve.)
- **The Bible says, "Share with others." With whom can you share the story of this miracle?**
Children say names of family and friends.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: SHARE WITH OTHERS

Purpose: To help children experience sharing and imagine being part of the miracle.

Supplies: 7 small beanbags (or soft, easy-to-toss items), basket

Imagine being in the crowd that day when Jesus fed everyone from one boy's meal. Let's pretend that these beanbags are the boy's 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle. Place the "Leftovers Basket" in the center of the circle.
2. Pass a beanbag "bread loaf" around the circle as each child pretends to tear off and eat some.
3. When passing the bread to the next child in the circle, each child should say, "Share with others."
4. After the last child pretends to eat some bread, he or she tosses it into the "Leftovers Basket."
5. Pass another beanbag. Call it "fish" and ask children to share it as they did with the bread.
6. Play 7 rounds until 5 "bread loaves" and 2 "fish" have been tossed into the "Leftover Basket."

Optional: Time the children to see if they can pass each bread loaf or fish faster than previous ones. Make sure each child has a chance to toss a loaf or fish into the Leftover Basket.

SNACK: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while acting out the miracle of feeding the big crowd.

Snack Suggestion: Fish-shaped crackers, bread, water, small plastic bags, basket, cloth

Prepare: Divide the snack into individual servings and place each serving in a separate plastic bag. Place all of the bags in a basket. Cover the basket with a cloth.

Directions:

1. **Let's use our snack time to act out the story of Jesus feeding the big crowd.**
2. **Assign roles: Jesus, Philip, Andrew, and the boy. Everyone else is part of the crowd. Give a snack bag to the boy.**
3. **Tell the following story. Help children act it out as you prompt them.**
 - **One day Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with His disciples.** Jesus, Philip, and Andrew go and sit in the far corner of the room.
 - **Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward Him.** The rest of the children move to stand near Jesus.
 - **Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?"** Jesus repeats the words to Philip.
 - **But Jesus already knew what He was going to do. Philip said, "We do not have money to buy enough food."** Philip repeats the words to Jesus.
 - **Andrew found a boy with five small loaves of bread and two small fish.** Andrew brings boy with snack bag to Jesus.
 - **Jesus said to the crowd, "Please be seated."** Jesus repeats the words to Philip.
 - **Jesus took the bread and gave thanks.** Jesus puts boy's snack on the cloth in the basket.

(Continued on the next page.)

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: ACT IT OUT (continued)

4. Let's sing the "Blessing Song." Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
5. **After the blessing, Jesus passed out bread to anyone who was seated. Jesus gave them as much as they wanted. And He did the same with the fish.** "Jesus" gives basket to teacher. Reach under the cloth to retrieve and pass out 1 snack bag to each child. Children eat their snacks.
 - **Everyone had all they wanted to eat.** Children pretend to be happy and full.
 - **There were 12 basketfuls of leftovers!** Refill each child's bag and reseal.
 - **Let's seal our bags and take our leftovers home to share this snack and tell our families about this miracle!**
6. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Just like we do, Jesus seated everyone, said the blessing, and passed the food around. Do you have a special mealtime blessing in your home?**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"I	Point to self.
will remember	(remember) Close fists with thumbs pointing out. Start one thumb at the forehead. Move it downward, touching thumbs in front of you.
Your miracles."	(miracles) With fingers open and palms facing forward at shoulder height, move hands forward and up twice (sign for "wonders").
Psalms 77:11b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JOHN 6:3-13

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Jesus and his friends were on the mountainside** (Make mountain shape with hands.)
- **And a large crowd gathered around.** (Open arms wide.)
- **He said, "Philip, where shall we buy them bread?"** (Palms up, as if asking a question.)
- **They had no money to feed the crowd.** (Show empty pockets.)

- **Andrew found five loaves and two fish** (Raise 5 fingers on left hand, 2 fingers on right.)
- **From one boy in the crowd.** (Raise index finger.)
- **Jesus told the crowd to sit on the grass.** (Point to ground.)
- **He blessed the food and passed it around.** (Fold hands in prayer.)

- **Jesus fed 5,000 people that day.** (Wave five fingers.)
- **Bread and fish they each did enjoy.** (Pat belly.)
- **And 12 baskets were filled with leftovers,** (Clap hands to celebrate.)
- **All from one meal from just one boy.** (Raise index finger.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I will remember Your miracles." Psalm 77:11b

GAME: MIRACLE BALL

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Soft ball

The Lord wants us to remember His deeds and miracles. Deeds are actions or things God has done. Miracles are amazing surprises from God. When the ball rolls to you, we'll say our Bible Memory Verse together.

Directions:

1. Seat children sit in a circle.
2. Roll ball to first child.
3. While child holds ball, children recite or echo together with the motions: **"I will remember your miracles!"**
4. Child rolls ball to another child.
5. Repeat until all children have had a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE DANCE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Remember"

The Lord wants us to remember His words in the Bible. Let's dance (or move around the room) as we sing our Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Remember."

Directions:

1. Play recording of Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Remember."
2. Encourage the children to sing, dance, and create motions to help them remember the words.
3. Optional: Periodically stop the music. Lead the children in stopping where they are and saying the Bible Memory Verse together.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about any of Jesus' miracles.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 1, Lesson 5: Feeding the Big Crowd

PONDER! It was a miracle when Jesus fed the big crowd with the little boy's lunch (John 6:3-13). Because the little boy shared his lunch, many people were able to eat. What does Jesus want us to do with what we have? (Share with others.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for the food You provide each day for our family. Help us share with others and be a part of Your miracles. Amen."

PLAY! Make and wrap sandwiches or collect canned food from your neighbors. Share this food with needy people in your community. Ask Jesus to provide them with all they need.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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will remember	(remember) Close fists with thumbs pointing out. Start one thumb at the forehead. Move it downward, touching thumbs in front of you.
Your miracles."	(miracles) With fingers open and palms facing forward at shoulder height, move hands forward and up twice (sign for "wonders").
Psalm 77:11b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.