



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Christian Educators,

Loaves & Fishes would like to offer you a way to feed the spiritually hungry and the physically hungry at the same time. This document contains a lesson plan for the miracle of the loaves and the fishes to teach your children how Christ fed the multitudes. This lesson plan includes an outline of the story, taken from the Gospel of John, with questions to guide your teaching and fun activities for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

We also encourage you to hold a food drive for Loaves & Fishes as a part of your lesson and include tips on how to successfully hold a food drive. By holding a food drive in conjunction with a Bible lesson, children will have the opportunity to feed the multitudes just like Christ. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact us at 704-523-4333 or lucy@loavesandfishes.org

Thank you,

Loaves & Fishes

www.loavesandfishes.org

The Loaves and the Fishes

John 6:1-15

Core Message: While we can't feed thousands of people by ourselves, when we give our food to God, He will use it to feed the thousands of hungry people in the world.

Story:

After much teaching and healing, Jesus went to the opposite side of the Sea of Galilee. Thousands of people continued to follow him so they could keep seeing the amazing miracles Jesus was doing. Now this crowd had been following Jesus for days and days. They had been sleeping outside and since they didn't know that they were going on such a long trip, they didn't pack everything they needed. They had been walking for days because there were no cars or planes.

So if you had been in that crowd, how would you be feeling right about now?

Possible Answers: hungry, tired, fired up by the words you've heard and miracles you've seen, you might want to go home, etc.

Jesus and his disciples climbed the mountain and sat down. Jesus saw the huge crowd coming up the mountain, turns to Phillip and asks, "How are we going to feed all these people?!" Jesus asked his disciple this question to see what his answer would be because Jesus already knew what he was going to do.

Why does Jesus want to feed the crowd?

Possible Answers: knows that they are hungry, love, compassion, care, etc.

Phillip answers Jesus. He said, "Two year's worth of allowance couldn't pay for enough lunch for these hungry people!"

If you were a disciple of Jesus with him on the mountain, how would you be feeling?

Possible Answers: frustrated, doubtful that you could feed the people, worried that people would go hungry, worried that people would get angry if you couldn't feed them, etc.

Andrew, another disciple, tells Jesus, "There is a child out there in the crowd who has five small loaves of bread and two fish, but that couldn't feed more than four people!" The disciples were probably thinking, "How in the world are we going to feed all these people?" Jesus calmly asks the crowd to sit down. He then takes the loaves and fishes from the child, who, like the rest of the crowd, was probably tired and hungry.

If you were that child, what would you do? Would you give Jesus your basket of food? What if you were really hungry and you knew that little bit of food couldn't possibly feed the thousands of people? Would you be worried that you wouldn't get to eat?

Well, the child did give his basket of food to Jesus and took part in something really amazing that you're about to hear about! Jesus thanks God for the basket of food that he already has before even thinking of asking for more. This is very important. We must remember to thank God for the food we have. Then, Jesus hands the food to the people and he never runs out of food. Miraculously, the bread and the fish kept appearing and there was even extra left over! Twelve baskets of leftovers! Everyone was amazed; they couldn't believe what had happened!

What happened when the child gave his food to Jesus?

Possible Answers: there was even more food, he still got fed, other people got to eat, he helped people, he obeyed God, etc.

Who are the hungry in our community, city, schools, churches, etc.?

(Talk about hunger in Charlotte and across the world. Many of the children in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system are on free and reduced lunch. These could be classmates of the children you are teaching. Around the world, many people live on less than \$2 a day)

The child in this story does exactly what we should be doing. How can we be like the child? How can we give our food to God in a way that helps to feed the hungry?

Possible Answers: organize a food drive, donate food to a food drive, volunteer at a soup kitchen or food pantry

Don't forget to thank God for the food you have!

Activities

3-5 year olds:

Make your own basket of loaves and fishes!

What you'll need:

Construction paper or card stock

Scissors

Crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.

Yarn

Scotch tape

Hole punch

For instructions and patterns see page 7

K-5th

Loaves & Fishes Relay!

What you'll need:

- 2 chairs per team
- 2 large bowls per team
- 1 large spoon per team
- Goldfish crackers
- Pretzel sticks

How to play:

Divide the children into even teams (number of teams is up to you depending on how many children you have).

Set up two chairs for each team, one at the start and one at the finish. The chairs just need to be directly across from each other.

Place a container in each chair.

In each container at the start, put goldfish and pretzel sticks.

Have the children line up behind the starting chair. The first child in each line should have a large spoon.

The first child in each line will scoop up as many "loaves and fishes" as he/she can and walk quickly (no running!) to the container in the other chair, trying not to spill anything.

He/she will dump whatever is left in the spoon into the container and walk quickly back to the start and hand the spoon to the next person in line.

Repeat for five minutes.

At the end of five minutes, whoever has the most in their container (the container that had been empty to start with) wins!

Loaves & Fishes Jewelry

These will give children a reminder of the story and their part in it when they go home!

Here's what you'll need:

Pasta with holes big enough to string
Yarn or twine
Construction paper or card stock in what ever color you'd like to make the fish
Hole punch (scissors will work)
Pencil
Scissors
Paint (optional)

Here's how you make it:

1. If you are painting your macaroni do it now. If not, move on to step 2.
2. Cut fish shapes (**located on page 9**) out of construction paper, punch or cut holes in the top to string.
2. String your macaroni and fish. If you are using yarn to string your necklace/bracelet try wrapping a small piece of masking tape around the end to make it easier for little ones.

(from <http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Loaves-And-Fishes-Necklace.html>)

Everyone:

Hold a Food Drive for Loaves & Fishes, Inc.

We highly encourage that you hold a food drive in conjunction with this program. Holding a food drive is a concrete way to show children how to give their food to God. We would love to have your children involved in giving back to the community. We rely on the support of local congregations and would deeply appreciate yours.

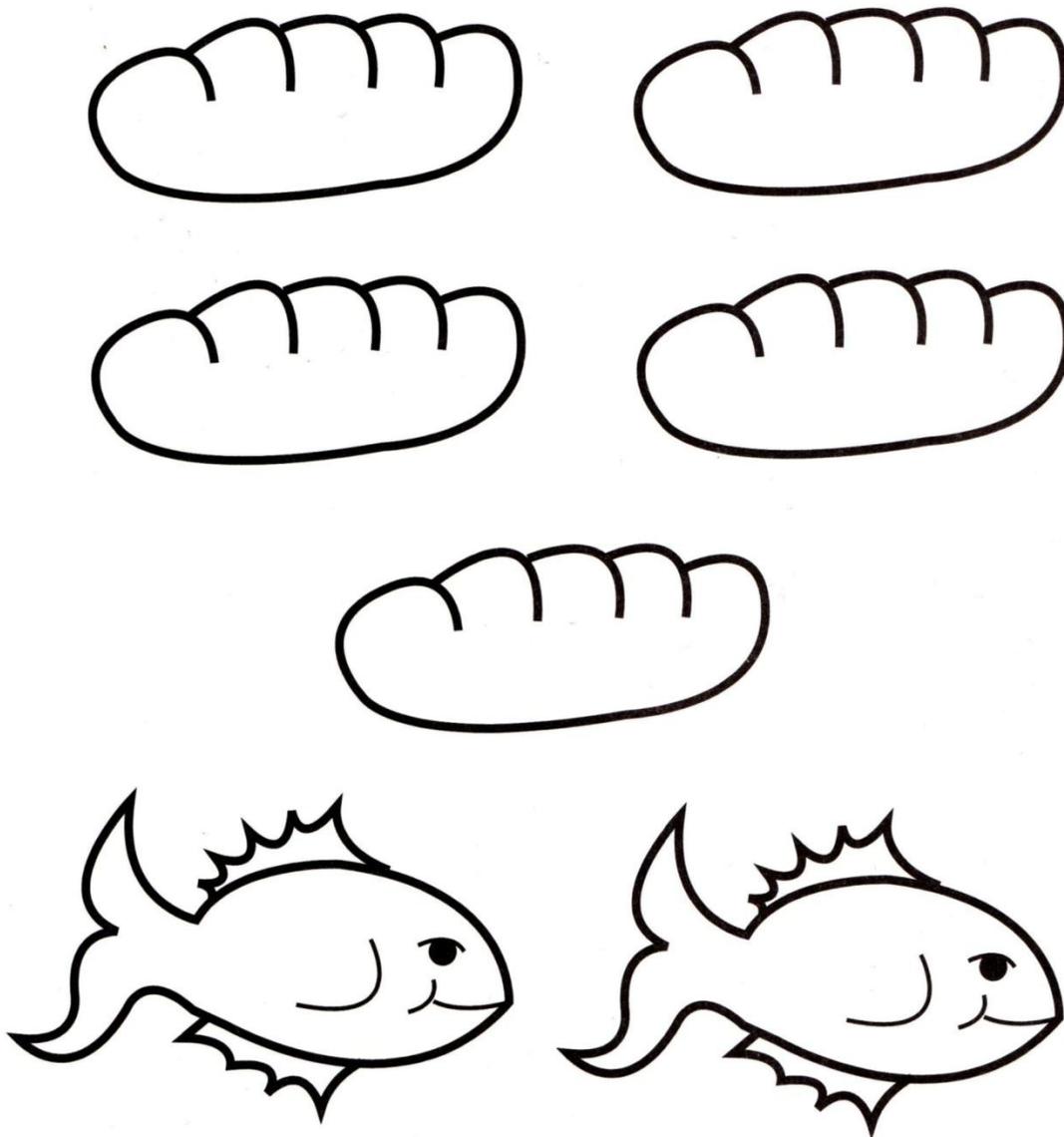
Have the children bring non-perishable items in all week. Let them see how their one or two cans multiply as the week goes on. For more instructions, please see our instructional PDF:

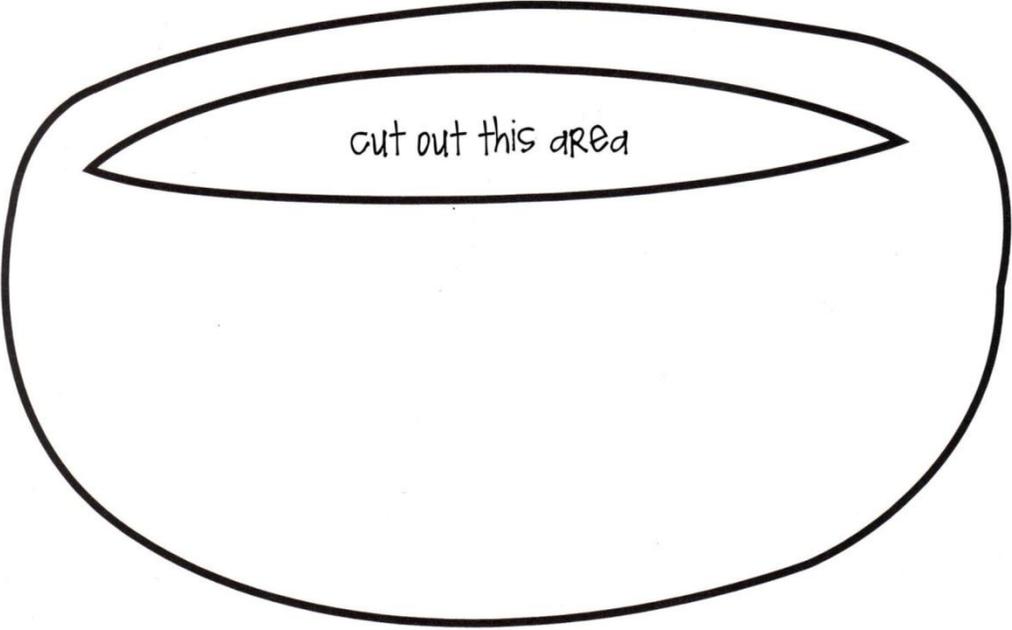
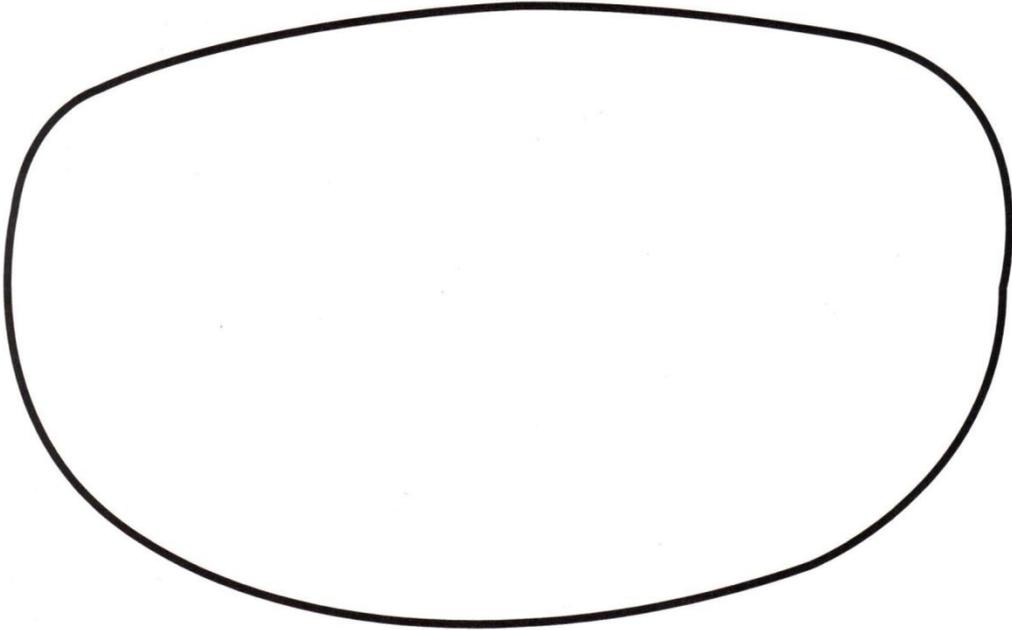
http://loavesandfishes.org/docs/How_to_conduct_a_food_drive.pdf

Instructions for “Make Your Own Basket of Loaves and Fishes” Activity

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print both pages onto cardstock
2. Have children color the loaves, fishes and basket pieces.
3. Cut out all pieces, removing cutout on basket front.
4. Hold basket front and back pieces together (wrong sides to the inside) and use a hole punch to make holes 1/2” apart all around edge of basket.
5. Cut 18 inches of brown yarn and wrap small piece of scotch tape around one end to form a “needle” Tie a knot in other end of yarn.
6. Have children sew up edge of basket by threading their yarn through holes.
7. When finished, tie ends of yarn together and have children put loaves and fishes into their basket.





Fish Patterns for Jewelry Activity

