

October 15
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
JESUS FED MANY PEOPLE
MATTHEW 15; MARK 8

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus gave the people food so they would not be hungry. Later, Jesus said that He is the Bread of Life. (John 6:35) Jesus can give us everything we need: forgiveness, peace with God, and life with Him forever. BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is Jesus God or a person? Jesus is both God and a person.

KEY PASSAGE: *No one has ever seen God, the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*
John 1:18

Key Passage Phrase: Jesus shows us what God is like. John 1:18

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask preschoolers to come to the group time area. Lead them to count to seven as a group. Suggest they clap seven times, jump seven times, and stomp seven times. Comment that Jesus fed many people with a small amount of food and His friends even picked up seven baskets of extra pieces.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date
(If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY *Does anyone remember our big picture question and answer? Say it with me. **Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.** Jesus was able to eat food, just like us. He is fully human. But Jesus also took a small amount of food and fed many people. He is fully God. Only Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*

4. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. What two foods did Jesus provide for the people? (*fish and bread*)
3. Why was Jesus able to feed so many people with just a small amount of food? (*Jesus is God's Son and can do miracles.*)
4. Jesus likes to meet the needs of His people. What needs do you have that we can ask God for? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)

5. **Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.**

SAY *Jesus fed many people with a small amount of bread and fish. Jesus is able to do amazing things, because He is the Son of God. The most amazing thing Jesus has done for us is that He died in our place for our sin on the cross. He rose again, and if we trust in Him we can be forgiven and be with God forever. Jesus gave the people food so they would not be hungry. Later, Jesus said that He is the Bread of Life. (John 6:35) Jesus can give us everything we need: forgiveness, peace with God, and life with Him forever.*

5. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY *Jesus, thank You for loving all people and meeting all our needs. You met the crowd's need to eat by providing them food to eat. You also met our need for knowing God and being forgiven for our sin by dying in our place and rising again. We love you! Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Prior to the session, write words or phrases from the key passage on bright colors of index cards and scatter them around the room. On each card, under the words, place the number of dots corresponding with the word order in the key passage. During the session, place the key passage marker at John 1:18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Provide baskets for the preschoolers to gather the cards. You may choose to invite preschoolers to take turns gathering the cards. Suggest they put the cards in order, using the number of dots on each card and the key passage poster as a reference. Read the passage, pointing to each word as you say it together.

SAY *You gathered the words from our key passage just like the disciples gathered up all the leftover food from today's Bible story! Food like bread helps our body grow, and Bible verses, like our key passage, help our minds and hearts grow and learn more about God. Our bodies need food, and our hearts and minds need to know and love God and His Son, Jesus.*

PLAY OUT FEELINGS

Tell preschoolers that you will say a feeling. Then the preschoolers will play out the specific feeling together. (Possible feelings include happy, angry, tired, confused, excited, and sad.) End by asking preschoolers to play out hungry and thirsty feelings.

SAY *Good job playing out the different feelings. When was the last time you were really hungry or really thirsty? The people in today's Bible story were hungry! Jesus saw their need and cared about them. He took a small amount of food, blessed it, and fed all the people. He also cares about giving us other things we need too, like forgiveness, peace, and life forever with God.*

DIVIDE THE PLAY DOUGH

Provide a small amount of play dough for each preschooler. Suggest they divide it into smaller pieces. Then ask them to put all of the play dough back together. Ask them if the ball of play dough is bigger, smaller, or the same size as it was before they divided it.

SAY *When we divide something into smaller pieces, we still have the same amount of material. We cannot make more of something by dividing it up. Jesus divided bread and fish to provide to the people. After everyone ate and was full, the disciples gathered up even more food than they started with! They collected seven baskets full of extra pieces. That was a miracle—something only God can do. Jesus shows us, or reveals, what God is like.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, review the Christ Connection.

SAY *Jesus fed the people who were hungry. Jesus can give us everything we need: forgiveness, peace with God, and life with Him forever.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Matthew 15. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

JESUS FED MANY PEOPLE

STORYTELLING TIPS

Distribute and gather: Tear a sheet of paper into pieces and distribute the pieces to preschoolers when the bread is given out. Gather the pieces of paper back into a basket at the end of the story.

Twist chenille stems: Offer chenille stems and allow children to fidget while hearing the Bible story. Suggest children twist stems to form fish shapes.

*Jesus and His disciples had been traveling in an area where Gentiles—or non-Jews—lived. He healed people and taught people about God. **Jesus looked at a large crowd of people, and He cared about them.** They had been with Jesus for three days, and some had come a long way to meet Him. **They needed food to eat.***

Jesus told His disciples, “If I send them home, they will faint on the way.”

The disciples said, “We are not near a city. Where can we get enough bread to feed them?”

Jesus asked, “How many loaves of bread do you have?”

The disciples said, “Seven.”

Jesus told all the people to sit down. He took the seven loaves, gave thanks to God, and broke it into pieces. The disciples also had a few small fish, so Jesus blessed the fish. The disciples served the bread and fish to the crowd.

Everyone ate and was full. The disciples collected seven baskets full of extra pieces. Jesus told the crowd—about four thousand people—to go home. Then Jesus and His disciples got into a boat and left that place.

Christ Connection: Jesus gave the people food so they would not be hungry. Later, Jesus said that He is the Bread of Life. (John 6:35) Jesus can give us everything we need: forgiveness, peace with God, and life with Him forever.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child’s sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

October 15
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds

JESUS FED MANY PEOPLE

MATTHEW 15; MARK 8

CHRIST CONNECTION: Only Jesus can give us everything we need.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is Jesus God or a person? Jesus is both God and a person.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Jesus is God's Son. John 1:18

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: PRAY A THANKFUL PRAYER

Lead the toddlers in a prayer of thanks to God. Invite the toddlers to take turns repeating these words: "Dear Jesus, thank You for providing everything we need. Thank You that You love us and provide for us. Thank You that You are God's Son. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen." Explain that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere about anything.

SAY *Jesus loves us and is the only One who can provide everything we need.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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3. LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 1:18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the marker.

SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of "Muffin Man":

"Jesus is the Son of God.

The Son of God, the Son of God.

Jesus is the Son of God.

He gives us what we need."

SAY *Our key passage phrase says, 'Jesus is God's Son.' Jesus gives us everything we need.*

ACTIVITIES

EXPLORE EMPTY AND FULL

Spread out **cotton balls** and **cups** (one per child) on the table or in the playing area. Lead the toddlers in a game to see who can collect the most cotton balls in her cup. Play as time permits. Retell the Bible story. Explain how the people in the story were empty and how Jesus filled them by providing for their needs.

SAY *In our game, the cup started out empty but when we placed the cotton balls in the cups, they became full. Jesus loved the people and provided for them. The people were hungry. So, Jesus blessed the fish and bread and gave them to the people. Jesus provides for people.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *Who is Jesus? Yes! Jesus is God's Son. Who can forgive us of our sins? Yes! Jesus. Jesus can forgive your sins just like He forgave the man.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

SAY Jesus had been healing people and teaching people about God. Jesus looked at a big crowd of people, and He loved them. Jesus knew the people were hungry. “Where will we get bread for them?” Jesus’ friends asked. Jesus’ friends only had seven loaves of bread. Jesus told all the people to sit down. He gave thanks to God and broke the bread into pieces. The friends had a few fish too, so Jesus blessed the fish. The friends gave the bread and the fish to the people. Everyone ate and was full. Jesus’ friends even picked up seven baskets of extra food! Then Jesus told the people to go home.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.