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**June's B.i.G. Idea**

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

**June's Bible Verse**

*Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe. Psalm 150:2, CEV*

**June's B.i.G. Theme**

Great Are the Works of the Lord

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## Lesson 3 ★ The Boy's Lunch

### Today's Bible Story

John 6:1-14

### Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

### Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Jesus feeding five thousand people with a boy's small lunch.
- ★ Children will recognize that Jesus' action showed God's power and helped people know that God cares about their needs.

Today's Bible story is reminiscent of a miracle that occurred hundreds of years earlier, when the prophet Elisha had only twenty barley loaves and some fresh ears of grain to feed a hundred people (2 Kings 4:42-44). When Elisha instructed his servant to distribute the bread, the servant protested, "This is not enough food for that many people!" But Elisha repeated his instructions, promising: "Just go ahead and do it. God says there will be plenty. There will even be leftovers." So the servant distributed the bread. The people ate, and there was food left over, just as God had promised.

Today's Bible story, which we often call "The Feeding of the Five Thousand," shows God's power at work in the same miraculous way. Jesus had spent the day teaching and healing, surrounded by a huge gathering of people.

Finally, as evening approached, Jesus looked at one of his disciples, Philip, and asked, "Where will we get bread to feed these hungry people?" Philip was shocked! Jesus must have known that the disciples did not have enough money to feed a crowd! "It would take more than six months' wages to feed this many people," Philip said.

Then another disciple, Andrew, said, "Here's a boy with two fish and five loaves of bread. But that is not enough for so many people." But Jesus took the loaves and fish, thanked God for them, and distributed them to the people. And when the meal was over, they gathered twelve baskets of leftovers.

When the little boy shared his lunch, he demonstrated a profound truth—when we offer ourselves and what we have to God, God's power can work through us. The child with two small fish and five round loaves of bread never wondered if his lunch could help Jesus or not. He simply offered it willingly. If the child had held onto his lunch, he would have been the only one fed. Instead, his generosity and faith made it possible for all to be fed. Can you imagine how the little boy felt as he watched everyone eat his fish and bread? Imagine him realizing: "That's not my lunch—it is the Lord's!"

Once again, a child reminds us to have faith. A child reminds us to offer ourselves to God. A child reminds us to share. A child helps us grow into an understanding of how letting go of things can bring a multitude of blessings.

## Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
Lunch Bag Fun	✓
Count to Five	✓
Lunch Plate Special	
Transition Time	✓

## . . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Hear the Bible Story	✓
What Happened Next?	
Backyard Time	✓
Praise Time	✓

## . . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Share a Lunch	
Thank-you Cards	✓
Closing Worship	✓



**TimeSaver**  
Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



**EcoFriendly**  
Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

## DVD Summary: Backyard Time

*It is Backyard Time and everyone is hungry, but only one person brought anything for lunch. You guessed it! It is the story of the loaves and fishes that Jesus turned into enough food for a big crowd. As Mr. Z tells the Bible story, the group plays a game of "What's in Hank's Lunch Box." Then Ms. Lucy comes up with a pitcher of lemonade and Bongo contributes some cookies to add to Hank's sandwiches. Soon everyone has enough to eat, just as they did in the Bible story. The children say the Bible verse together and remember just how powerful God is.*

# LIVE BIG

**The B.i.G. Idea**  
We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

## Welcome!

**Supplies:** Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child a bread and fish **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ **Say:** Today's Bible story is about a child who helped Jesus by sharing his lunch of bread and fish. Jesus uses the child's lunch to show people that God is powerful and really cares about people. I think you are one of Jesus' helpers too.
- ★ **Say:** Do you remember our Bible verse for this month? It says: "Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe" (Psalm 150:2, CEV).
- ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

**Live B.i.G.** God needs each of us to be one of God's helpers.

## Lunch Bag Fun

**Supplies:** Stickers, brown lunch bags, crayons

- Do** ★ Give each child a brown bag to decorate with crayons.
- ★ **Say:** Some people use this kind of bag as a lunch bag. Inside their bag they might have a sandwich and an apple and a cookie.
- ★ **Ask:** What do you like to eat for lunch? Do you take your lunch with you in a lunch bag or in a lunch box?
- ★ Give the children the bread and fish **Stickers** to add to their lunch bags.
- ★ **Say:** In our Bible story today, a young boy brought his lunch with him to hear Jesus talk about God. He had five small loaves of bread and two fish for his lunch. When the boy gave his lunch to Jesus, Jesus used the small lunch to feed five thousand people! Jesus showed people that God is powerful and really cares about people.

You will use the lunch bags again during the "Count to Five," "Lunch Plate Special," and "Share a Lunch" activities.

**Live B.i.G.** Jesus shows us God's power.

Invite them in . . .

## Count to Five

**Supplies:** Kids' Book, lunch bags made earlier (page 30)

### Prepare

- ★ Punch out five loaves and two fish (**Kids' Book**) for each child.
- ★ Stack all the loaves of bread in one pile. Then stack all the fish in another pile.

**Do** ★ **Say:** In our Bible story today, a young boy brought his lunch with him to hear Jesus talk about God. He had five small loaves of bread and two fish. Let's count out five loaves of bread for each of you. Let's put them in your lunch bag.

- ★ Encourage the children to help you count.
- ★ **Say:** Now let's count out two fish to put in your lunch bags.
- ★ **Say:** When the boy shared his lunch with Jesus, Jesus used it to feed five thousand people! Jesus showed people that God is powerful and really cares about them.

**Live B.i.G.** Jesus shows us God's power.

## Lunch Plate Special

**Supplies:** gluesticks, paper plates, crayons or markers, lunch bags with bread and fish (page 30 and above)

### Prepare

- ★ Write "The Boy's Lunch" around the edge of a paper plate for each child.

**Do** ★ **Say:** Let's pretend we are going to eat our lunch. I think we need a plate.  
★ Encourage each child to decorate a plate with crayons or markers.  
★ **Say:** Now, glue the loaves and fish from your lunch bag onto your paper plate.  
★ Encourage the children to pretend to eat.  
★ **Say:** This lunch was just enough to feed one boy, but Jesus used the lunch to feed five thousand people!

*Plan to use the plates during the Bible story. Save the lunch bags for the "Share a Lunch" activity.*



**Live B.i.G.** Jesus shows us God's power and how God cares for people.

## Transition Time

**Do** ★ Sing the song "Praise Our God!" as the children march around the room. The song is sung to the tune of "Hot Cross Buns."

Praise our God!  
Praise our God!  
See us march around our room  
And praise our God!

- ★ Quietly sing the song again, changing *march* to *tiptoe*.
- ★ Lead the children to your storytelling area and have them sit down.

**Live B.i.G.** We praise God for God's wonderful deeds.

# LIVE BIG

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Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

## Hear the Bible Story

**Supplies:** Bible, Leader—page 36, picnic basket, napkins, fish crackers, round or oval crackers, plastic containers, picnic blanket, paper plate lunches made earlier (page 31)

### Prepare

- ★ Place napkins, a container of fish crackers, and a container of round or oval crackers inside a picnic basket.
- ★ Place the Bible on top of the picnic basket.

### Do

- ★ **Say:** Help me spread out the things in this picnic blanket so that we can hear a Bible story about a very special picnic.
- ★ Let the children sit on the blanket. Help them spread out the picnic items.
- ★ Show the children the Bible.
- ★ Be sure each child has his or her paper plate lunch made earlier.
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is from the Book of John. I will need your help telling the story. Each time you hear the words “five loaves of bread and two fish,” hold up your plate and say, “Thank you, God.” Let’s practice.
- ★ Say the words “five loaves of bread and two fish” and encourage the children to hold up their plates and say “Thank you, God.”
- ★ Tell the children the story “The Boy’s Lunch” (**Leader—page 36**).
- ★ **Say:** This lunch was just enough to feed one boy, but Jesus used the lunch to feed five thousand people! Jesus showed people that God is powerful and cares about them.
- ★ Enjoy the picnic together.
- ★ Give each child a napkin.
- ★ Help the child spread the napkin on top of his or her paper plate.
- ★ **Say:** In our Bible story today a boy shared his lunch of bread and fish. Let’s pretend our round crackers are the bread and our fish crackers are the fish. We can share a snack of bread and fish.
- ★ Give each child several crackers.
- ★ Say a thank-you prayer.
- ★ **Say:** The boy’s lunch was just enough to feed one boy, but Jesus used the lunch to feed five thousand people! Jesus showed people that God is powerful.

*Check for allergies before serving any snack.*



**Live B.i.G.** Jesus shows us God’s power and that God cares about people.

## What Happened Next?

**Supplies:** Leader—page 37, scissors, construction paper, gluesticks

### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy and cut apart “Sequence Pictures” (**Leader—page 37**) for each child.

- Do** ★ Give each child a piece of construction paper and four sequence pictures (**Leader—page 37**).
- ★ **Ask:** Which picture shows the boy holding his lunch?
  - ★ **Ask:** Now which picture shows what happened next? (*Jesus, holding the basket, asks for God’s blessing.*) What’s next? (*The people eat.*) And which picture shows what happened at the end of the story? (*Twelve baskets are left over.*)
  - ★ Help the children glue the pictures in order on the construction paper.
  - ★ **Say:** When Jesus fed everyone, he showed people that God is powerful.

**Live B.i.G.** Jesus shows us God’s power and that God cares about people.

## Backyard Time

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ **Say:** Are you ready to go to the backyard with Mr. Z? Let’s see what the kids are up to today! I heard there might be some sharing going on.
- ★ Watch Backyard Time (**DVD**).
  - ★ **Say:** Did you notice what happened when Hank offered to share his lunch? Soon Ms. Lucy and Bongo offered to share too! God can use the things we share to help others just like Jesus used the boy’s lunch.

**Live B.i.G.** God can use the things we share to help others.

## Praise Time

**Supplies:** Leader—page 4, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Remind the children how to sign “Alleluia” in American Sign Language (page 23).
- ★ Play “Great Are the Works of the Lord” (**DVD; Leader—page 4**). Encourage the children to sing and dance with the music and to sign the word *Alleluia* each time it appears in the refrain.

**Live B.i.G.** *Alleluia* means “praise to God.”

# LIVE BIG

**The B.i.G. Idea**  
We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

## Share a Lunch

**Supplies:** lunch bags made earlier (page 30), napkins, small packages of fish crackers and round crackers, pull-tab tuna cans, cups or small cans of fruit

### Prepare

- ★ Talk with your pastor or missions coordinator about who will receive the lunch bags.

### Do

- ★ Give the children the lunch bags they made earlier.
- ★ **Say:** God worked through Jesus to do a miracle. God also works through us when we share with others.
- ★ Have the children place a package of crackers, tuna, fruit, and a napkin inside each bag.
- ★ **Say:** We will give the lunches to people who do not have the money to buy food.

**Live B.i.G.** When we share with others, we are helping God care for others.

## Thank-You Cards

**Supplies:** Kids' Book—page B, lunch bags packed for people who do not have money to buy food (above)

### Prepare

- ★ Punch out a "Thank-You Tent Card" (**Kids' Book—page B**) for each child.

### Do

- ★ Give each child a thank-you tent card (**Kids' Book—page B**).
- ★ **Say:** Jesus thanked God for the boy's lunch. Let's make cards that will help us remember to thank God for our food.
- ★ Read the prayer and the Bible verse to the children.
- ★ Help the children fold the cards in half to make the cards stand like a tent.
- ★ **Say:** We will put one card in each lunch bag we have packed for people in need (see "Share a Lunch" above).
- ★ Have the children place one card in each packed lunch bag.

*If you did not pack lunch bags for "Share a Lunch," let the children take the tent cards home to put on their family's table.*

**Live B.i.G.** We thank God for the wonderful things God does for us.

## Closing Worship

**Supplies:** Kids' Book, Stickers, Leader—page 36, basket

### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “The Boy’s Lunch” (**Leader—page 36**) for every child to take home.
- ★ Detach and assemble a storybook for each child (**Kids’ Book**) (instructions, page 144).

### Do

- ★ Gather the children in a circle.
- ★ Pass a basket around the circle and invite each child to name someone who helps them and shares with them (mother, father, big brother, friend, teacher).
- ★ Then pass the basket around again. Ask each child to name someone he or she could share something with or help.
- ★ **Say:** God can use us to help meet the needs of others. When we are willing to share, God’s power can work through us.
- ★ Place an “I Can Be Jesus’ Helper” worship badge (**Stickers**) on each child and give each child a storybook (**Kids’ Book**) to take home.

**Live B.i.G.** We can be Jesus’ helpers by sharing what we have with others.



# The Boy's Lunch

Jesus was a wonderful teacher. Whenever he was teaching, people came from miles around to hear him. They could hear God's love in his words and wanted to be near him.

One day, over five thousand people came to listen to Jesus teach. All day long they sat on the grass as Jesus told them about God's love and about how God wanted them to live.

They listened and listened and forgot all about the time. But after a while, everyone's stomach began to rumble. And that was a big problem because there was no food to eat!

Well, that's not exactly right. There was one boy who had a basket with **five loaves of bread and two fish**.

*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

The little boy was very hungry too. But he offered Jesus his lunch with **five loaves of bread and two fish**.  
*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

Some of the disciples laughed. They thought it was silly that the boy thought it would help to share **five loaves of bread and two fish**.  
*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

But Jesus did not think it was silly. Jesus took the boy's gift of **five loaves of bread and two fish**.  
*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

He thanked God for **five loaves of bread and two fish**.  
*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

Then Jesus started passing food around. All the people ate their fill of **five loaves of bread and two fish**.  
*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

And when the people had finished eating, there were twelve baskets of food left over! All because a boy shared his lunch of **five loaves of bread and two fish**.  
*(Have the children hold up their plates and say, "Thank you, God.")*

*based on John 6:1-14*

# Sequence Pictures

