

# Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand (Children's Church Lesson) from John 6:1-14

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 [ministry-to-children.com/jesus-feeds-5000](http://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-feeds-5000)

December 30, 2007

This Sunday I continued my series of New Testament stories in children's church. This **Bible lesson plan for children** can be used in **Sunday school** or children's church. You can download this lesson plan as a Word document from the following link: [Children's Bible Lesson Plan: Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand from John 6:1-14](#).

You can also download my other [Children's Church Lesson Plans](#).

**Children's Church Bible Lesson:** Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

**Text:** John 6:1-14

(you can also find this story in Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17)

**Learning Objectives:** After this lesson, children will demonstrate knowledge of the key people and events in this passage ... by retelling the story back to the teacher at the end of the session. Key points include:

1. Situation: Large crowd follows Jesus up the mountain.
2. Problem: No food for all the people.
3. Complication: Jesus tells his disciples to feed the crowd.
4. Complication: A young boy shares his lunch – but it's not enough
5. Resolution: Jesus performs a miracle by multiplying a small boys gift.

**Target Age:** Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>

**Items Needed:**

- Marked Bible for this passage. Prepare the copy in advance by highlighting the significant points to emphasize. Underlining words or ideas that will need additional explanation. I typically make small notes in the margin.
- Snack. If you have snack in your children's church this would be a perfect way to integrate the snack and the lesson. You could keep it basic with goldfish or go for something bigger with real bread and cooked fish.

**Explanation:** This story has several great themes to bring out for the children. Sometimes it has been reduced to a story about sharing, but the biblical writer really wants us to see that Jesus can provide. It's about the power of Jesus. There is a lesson in the fact that God chose to use the young boy's gift, just don't let that overshadow the main point about the divinity of Christ.

There is also the theme of compassion in this text. When Mark tells this story in Mark 6:34-44, he points out that the miracle was motivated by Jesus' compassion for the crowd and a concern that they might faint without food returning home. There is certainly a lesson here

about caring for the hungry.

This miracle is also a set-up for an upcoming lesson on Jesus as the “bread of life” in John 6:25-40. You might hint to the kids that Jesus is going to give the people something better than food next week.

## **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand, John 6:1-14** **Sunday School Lesson For Children**

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### One Page Teaching Plan

#### **Hook**

Take out your snack and begin to eat it in front of the class. Wait for someone to ask you to share. Assure them you will share after the lesson, but ask them to think about how they would feel if there wasn't enough food for everyone. Say, “In today's story, we are going to learn about a time when Jesus make food for 5,000 families out of one small snack.”

#### **Book**

*Active Listening:* Ask the children to listen carefully for the details of the story, so that they can re-tell it to you afterward.

*Read* (and summarize) John 6:1-14. Be sure to engage the children with good story telling.

Key points include:

1. Situation: Large crowd follows Jesus up the mountain.
2. Problem: No food for all the people and they are getting really weak.
3. Complication: Jesus tells his disciples to feed the crowd.
4. Complication: A young boy shares his lunch – but it's not enough
5. Resolution: Jesus performs a miracle by multiplying a small boys gift.

*Review:* Read the following statements. Have the children stand up if this was something that happened in this story. If it didn't happen in this story they should sit with arms crossed – even if they are true statements taught in other parts of the Bible the children should remain seated.

- Jesus turned regular water into wine to save a wedding party.
- Jesus told his disciples to feed the 5,000 families.
- A young boy offered to share his five loaves of bread and two fish.
- Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread.
- God sent down bread falling from the sky to feed the Israelites.
- Jesus told the disciples to pick up all the leftover bread.

To use this lesson for **Children's Sunday School**, you will want to add additional learning activities here like a [craft to complement the Bible lesson](#).

**Look/Took:**

*Talk About It:* Ask the children to discuss the following questions to better understand the story.

- Why do you think Jesus wanted to feed the 5,000 families?
- What do you think the little boy was feeling when he saw Jesus use his gift for the miracle?
- What does this story tell you about whom Jesus really was?

*Test:* Ask several volunteers to come up to the front to re-tell the story to the class. If they need help prompt them with questions like “what happened next.”

# Lesson: Jesus Feeds 5,000 with Boy's Lunch (Matthew 14:13-21)

[ministry-to-children.com/lesson-jesus-feeds-5000-with-boys-lunch-matthew-1413-21](http://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-jesus-feeds-5000-with-boys-lunch-matthew-1413-21)

July 4, 2015



## A Little Lunch and a Lot of Faith...Jesus Feeds 5,000

The story of stretching loaves and fishes is always a hit among miracle lessons. How is it possible that such a small amount of food managed to take care of so many people? This lesson aims to remind students of how God takes care of all of our needs and can do anything, even the seemingly impossible.

**Lesson focus:** God can do fantastic and miraculous things in our lives if we trust Him and let Him do His will.

**Passage:** Matthew 14:13-21

**Target Audience:** Kindergarten-6th Grade (adaptable older or younger)

**Materials Needed:** Fun-sized candy bar, gold fish crackers, dinner rolls (5), tuna cans, crackers (1-2 per student), Swedish fish (2 per student), lunch bags and decorative material (markers, stickers, etc).

**Optional:** Jesus Feeds 5000 coloring page and Skit: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

**Lesson Opening:** This is a great story for telling interactively with students. To open things up, the teacher will take out a candy bar or treat and eat in front of students. After they witness and whine a bit, the teacher can announce that there is more to share, but it will have to go around the whole group. Pull out a tiny fun-sized candy bar and a handful of goldfish crackers. Will this be enough for everyone to have some? How should we split it all up? Explain that today's story will feature a seemingly impossible event that turned out to be a miracle.

## Jesus Feeds 5,000 Bible Lesson

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Provide the backdrop for the story: Jesus was teaching people out by a big lake, and everyone was very excited to hear what he had to say. Ask if anyone has ever been somewhere when there was a big crowd of people. Explain that there were lots of people, and it started getting late.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." (Matthew 14:13-15)

Some of the disciples asked Jesus if there was going to be any food because some of the crowds were getting hungry. There was no way to feed everyone. There were over 5,000 people! Count with students some small items, adding up to about fifty things (or smaller for younger students). Imagine how many people were out by that lake! Jesus told the disciples to see if anyone in the crowd had food to share. How were they going to find someone with enough to feed everyone??

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. (16-19)

But the disciples did find a little boy with a lunch. Hold up a paper bag to demonstrate the lunch. Guess how much food he had? Pull out five dinner rolls and two cans of tuna. Jesus gave thanks for the food. (Say a prayer for the food in the bag, and reach deeper in it to start pulling out snacks.) Then he had disciples start handing out food for people. At this point, begin passing out crackers and gummy fish for each student.

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. -Matthew 14:20-21

Amazingly, there was enough food for everyone to eat. In fact, their tummies got so full there was leftover food to go around. Help students count out twelve of something to show there were twelve baskets leftover. How did Jesus do this? Remind students that Jesus was God, and that God made this amazing miracle possible. Share with them also how people had to trust in God: the disciples had to trust and have faith that Jesus knew what He was doing; and the little boy had to trust Him and be willing to share his lunch. How can we trust God and be willing to sacrifice??

**Craft:** lunch time fun...help students decorate lunch bags with various material, and keep for collections or donations for another time.

Close with prayer and reminder of God's work in our lives. Thank God for His amazing providence in our lives and for always taking care of our needs.

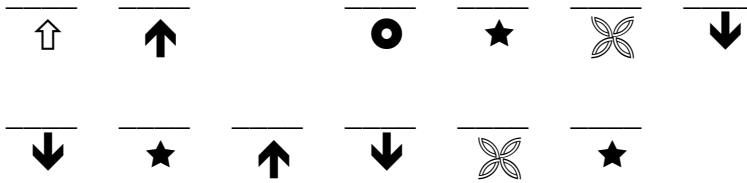
For more Bible story ideas, you can browse our other free lesson plans on this same Bible story.

# Learn About Miracles

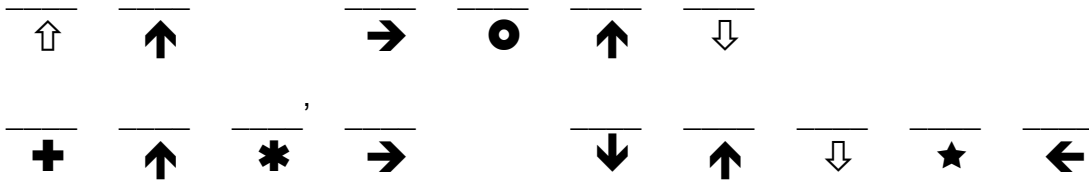
Miracles are supernatural acts that only God can do. Jesus is God, so he did miracles. He calmed a storm, provided food for many people, healed all kinds of sicknesses, and even made dead people alive again!

## Why Did Jesus Do Miracles?

Reason 1:



Reason 2:



Code:



## Lots of Problems

Jesus helped people with lots of different problems. Find these words in the puzzle.

BLIND (can't see)  
DEAF (can't hear)  
HUNGRY

LAME (can't walk)  
LEPER (skin disease)  
MUTE (can't speak)

SAD  
SCARED  
SICK



A	H	U	N	G	R	Y	E	L	T
S	C	A	R	E	D	I	D	A	S
E	A	N	P	U	E	T	U	M	I
R	O	E	N	R	A	I	T	E	C
B	L	I	N	D	F	O	S	E	K



## Jesus Stopped a Storm

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. Sometimes Jesus and the other disciples went with them in the boat. One day a storm came, and Jesus' friends were scared. Jesus made the storm stop!

Read Mark 4:37.

Draw a picture of the boat in the storm.

Read Mark 4:39.

Draw a picture of the boat after the storm.

## Someone to Help

Sometimes God doesn't make our problems go away, but he sends someone to help us. For each problem, draw a line to the person who might be able to help.

If this happens...

Your dad loses his job

A bully is mean to you

Your homework is really hard

God might send...

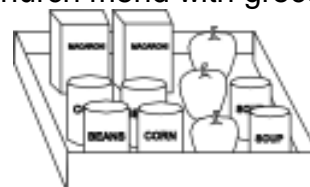
A new friend at school



A tutor to help with school work



A church friend with groceries





# Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Teaching Skit

 [ministry-to-children.com/jesus-feeds-the-5000-teaching-skit](http://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-feeds-the-5000-teaching-skit)

March 6, 2016



This is a great little skit that would be a good addition to your lesson about Jesus feeding the 5,000. It comes out of Luke 9:12-17 (NASB)

## **Characters:**

- Jesus
- 12 Disciples
- Sign Holder
- Crown

**Props:**

- Sign that says “The End of the Day”
- bread (could be construction paper)
- baskets (bowls would work as well)

(Sign Holder walks across stage with a sign saying “The End of the Day”)

(12 disciples walk over to Jesus)

Disciple 1: It’s the end of the day.

Disciple 2: Send the crowd away.

Disciple 3: Yes, so they may go into the surrounding villages and find a place to stay for the night.

Disciple 4: They also need to get something to eat.

Disciple 5: This is such a desolate place.

Jesus: You give them something to eat!

Disciple 6: We only have 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

Disciple 7: Unless you want us to go and buy food for all of these people.

Disciple 8: There are about 5,000 men!

Jesus: Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each.

(Disciples act like they are grouping the people and then everyone sits down)

Jesus to disciple: Bring me the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

(Disciple does this)

Jesus (looking up to heaven): Thank you Father for this food that you have provided for us.

(Jesus breaks the bread and hands them to the disciples)

Jesus (to disciples): Go bring the food to all of the people.

(Everyone eats and are full)

Jesus (to disciples): Go and pick up all of the broken pieces that are left over.

Disciple 9: Let’s go. This shouldn’t take long.

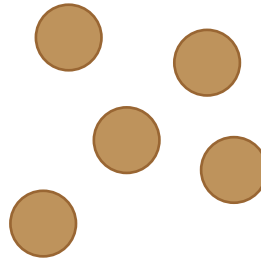
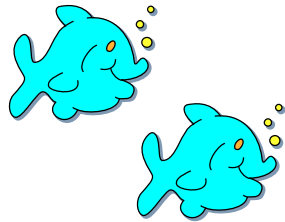
(Disciples go and pick up food)

Disciple 10: Wow! There are 12 baskets full!

Disciple 11: That’s more than when we began.

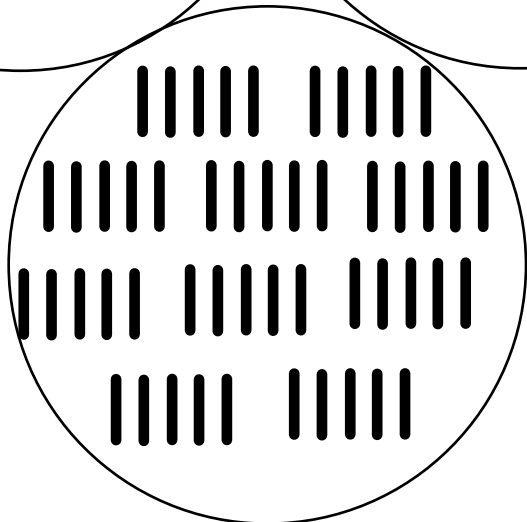
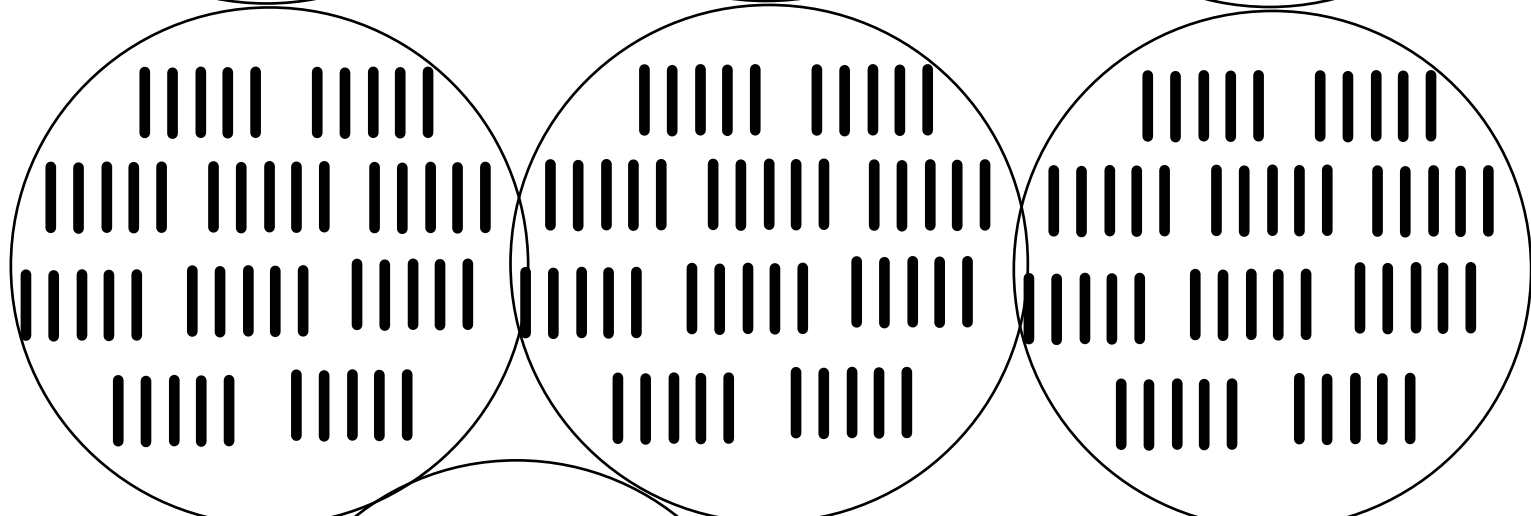
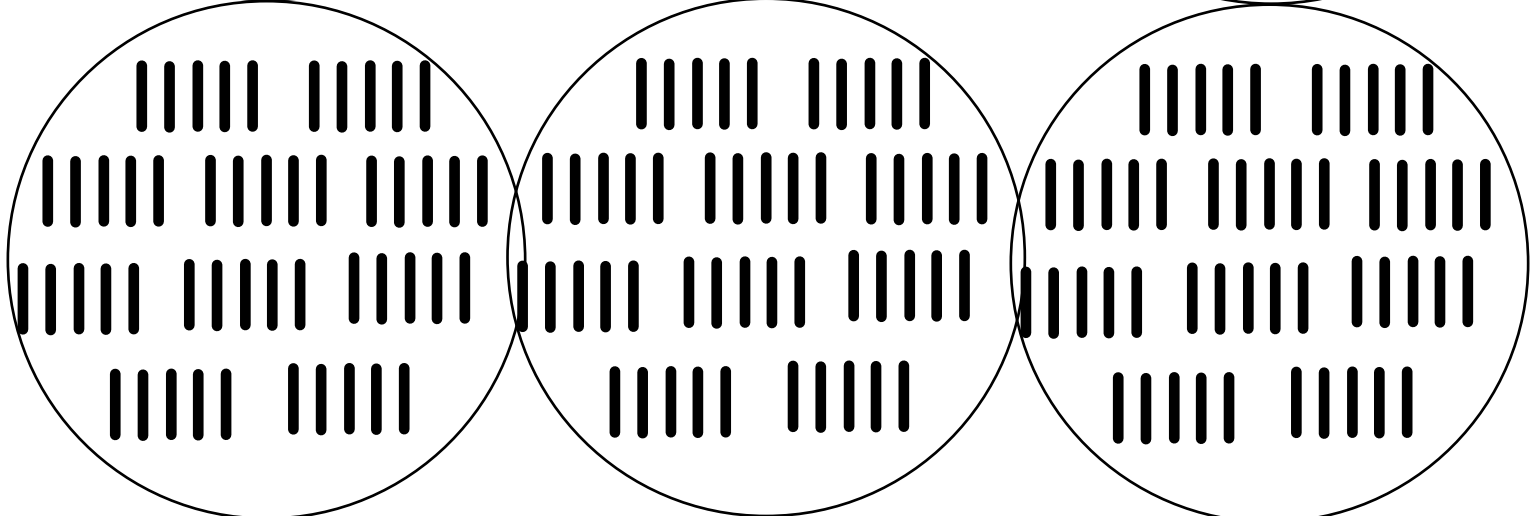
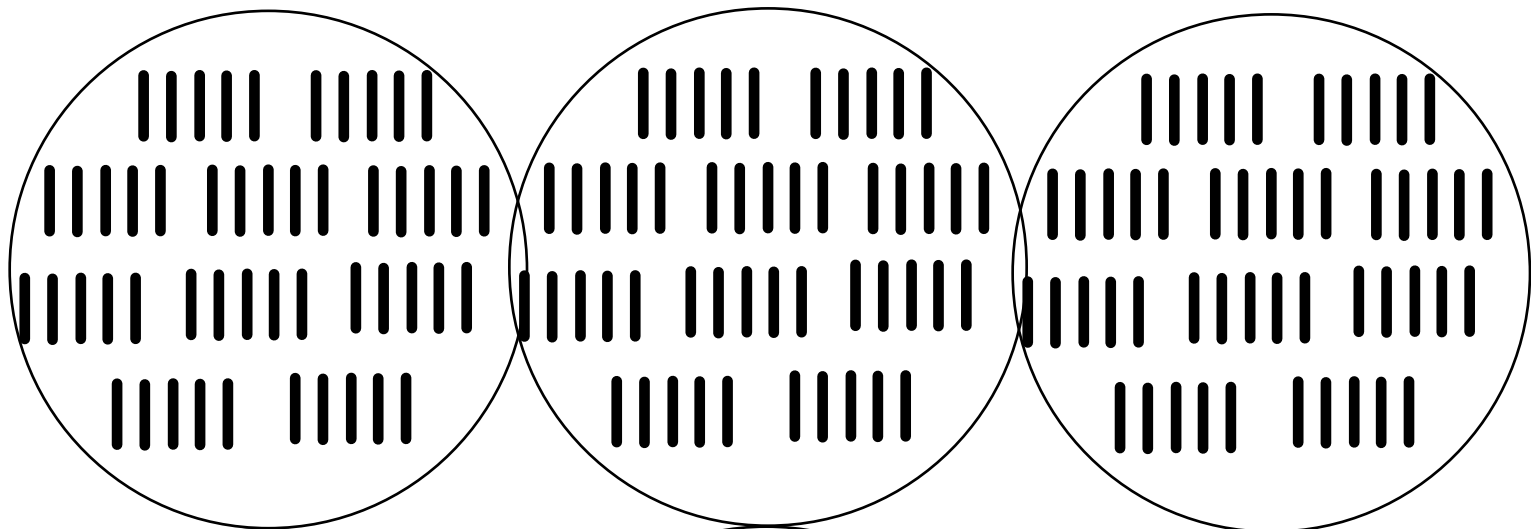
Disciple 12: We have witnessed a miracle by the Son of God!

# Food They Had BEFORE Jesus Fed Them



# Food They Had AFTER Jesus Fed Them









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# “Jesus Feeds 5000” Craft Ideas

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The feeding of the multitude (really 5,000 plus, since women and children weren't even in the head count) is a fun story to teach as well as a great one for craft possibilities. We celebrate God's provision and power, as He takes care of us and uses our meager offerings to do great things. With these crafts, explore how we can take simple everyday items like plates and bags, and turn them into a new creative reminder of God's ability to transform us! Here are some ideas to re-create the story.

## Bible Verses or Captions to Consider...

*Then 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. -John 6:35*

*They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

*-Matthew 14:20-21*

*God takes the little bit you've got...and uses it to make a lot!*

*From just a little lunch, God made a whole bunch!*

*Give God what you have, and see what He can do!*

*God provides all we need and then some!*

## More Teaching Ideas on Jesus Feeding the Multitude

- See all the MTC [resources about Jesus Feeding the 5000](#)
- Watch this [craft demonstration](#) on our [YouTube Playlist](#)
- Compare the [children's sermon](#), [Sunday School lesson](#), [preschool lesson](#) and [kids church lessons](#) on this same Bible story for kids
- Don't miss [Jesus Feeding the 5000 coloring page](#)



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# Craft one: “Basket Case” Decoration

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## You will need:

- Paper plates
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or staples
- Paper, cut into small strips
- Pipe cleaners



## Procedure:

1. Cut the plate in half, and cut vertical slits in each half, about an inch apart.
2. Take one strip of paper at a time and weave it in and out of the slits in the plate.
3. Once the weaving is complete, staple the plates together to make a “basket.”
4. Add decorations as desired. Attach a pipe cleaner handle.
5. Cut the paper into shapes of fish and bread loaves.
6. Add captions and verses. Tuck the fish and loaves into the basket, and hang to admire!



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# Craft Two: “Big Fish, Multiplied”

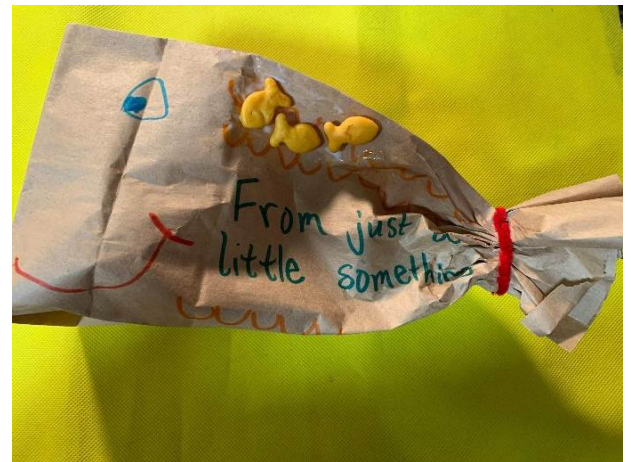
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## You will need:

- Paper bag
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Caption or verse
- Markers or crayons
- (optional) Goldfish crackers
- Glue
- Pipe Cleaner

## Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper bag to look “fishy”, with scales, facial features, or color as desired.
2. Cut several fish shapes out of construction paper.
3. Add a verse or caption, outside of the bag as well as on the fish.
4. Provide additional decoration as preferred, including gluing fish crackers to the bag.
5. Tuck the small fish inside the bag. Attach a pipe cleaner to create a “tail” look for the fish.





### Extra Activities and Craft Ideas:

- Use a lunch bag to make a “blessing bag” to give to someone else. Decorate the outside of the bag, and place small items inside like snacks, band-aids, soap, or small trinkets.
- Use a small box or paper bag to create a “basket”, and inside place Goldfish crackers or Swedish fish and cracker “loaves.” Decorate the outside.
- Make jewelry by stringing dry pasta shell “loaves” and paper fish onto yarn or ribbon.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May

2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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