

Over Five Thousand People

Remind the children of the “picnic” where Jesus fed over five thousand people.

❑ You will need:

- A storybook based on feeding the five thousand
- Snack and drink that can be packed up to go
- Cups and napkins
- Blankets for the ground

❑ To do:

Tell the children that you would like to tell them a wonderful story about Jesus but first they must do some preparations for the story. Invite the children to help you pack the snack and drink, cups and napkins into some bags. Ask the children to help you carry these items to the place where you will hear this wonderful story about Jesus. Give the children clues about the story, such as – the story has to do with people wanting to hear God’s Word. If the weather permits, travel outside and set up your picnic. After giving several clues, give the children an opportunity to guess the story. Read the story, share snack, and close with the scripture reading (Matthew 14: 13-21 or Mark 6:30-44) and this prayer.

Link index fingers and pray,

- Dear God,
- Thank you for sending Jesus to us.
- He is our friend and Savior.
- Caring for our every need.
- Help us to care for others as he cares for us.
- Amen.

Over Five Thousand People Action Play

Young children will love this finger play that will help them remember this amazing miracle.

Over five thousand people came to hear Jesus talk. (Hold up five fingers.)

As it got late, their tummies began to growl. (Rub your tummy.)

We don’t have enough food, the disciples said. (Show empty hands.)

You know all we have is five loaves and two fish. (Hold up five fingers on one hand and two on the other.)

Jesus took the food and prayed. (Fold hands)

He broke the bread and the fish to give away. (Pretend to give away to others.)

Wow, five thousand were fed with five loaves and two fish. (Hold up five fingers and then two.)

Loaves and Fishes

In the Bible story of the loaves and fishes, Jesus shows us how to share and care for others. The little boy provides a small amount of food that Jesus uses to feed thousands. Do you think it was hard for the boy to share his food? How do you think he felt after he shared with all those people?

□ To do:

Invite children to bring in their favorite foods for a food drive. Keep in mind that food pantries and shelves run low in the months following the Christmas holidays and the summer months when children are out of school. As the food begins coming in discuss who will benefit from the food drive and why is it important to share with others. Before delivering the collected foods gather the children around the food for a blessing. With hands held out over the food offer this prayer,

Dear God,

Be with the people who will receive this food. May they always know the touch of your love.

And may their hearts be filled with the warmth of your love. Amen.

Allow the children the opportunity to help bag up the food for transporting.