



Jesus Feeds the 5,000

John 6:1-13

Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE:

“With God, all things are possible” Matthew 19:26, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus Feeds 5000

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus Feeds 5000 people!

Say: Guess what! I have something super exciting I want to tell you. Are you ready? Okay, you have to put your listening ears on first. *Show kids how to "click on" their listening ears.* Ready? It's very important. It's about Jesus. Jesus is AWESOME! Jesus is awesome.

Say: Jesus is so many things. He is amazing. *Show excited face.* He is powerful. *Show muscles.* He is loving. *Give yourself a big hug.*

PLAY: Counting & Imagination Play

Supplies: None

Directions: Gather everyone in a circle on the ground. Count every kid out loud. Then, talk about the lesson.

Say: *Let's count how many friends are here today. Tap each child's head as you count. What if we had one peanut butter sandwich. Do you think we could share it and we would all be full? That's not very much food for all of us. Jesus did something AMAZING when He was living on earth. He fed 5000 people with just a little bread and a few fish! He is AWESOME! He can do anything!*

Say: *Let's all pretend to eat some fish and bread together. Have kids take turns "passing" food around. Then, show them how to pretend to eat the food together.*

While you are working with the children:

- What is your favorite thing to eat?

- Do you ever eat outside? Sitting on the ground? Or on the floor? Sometimes it is fun to eat somewhere different from where you usually do.
- We're going to hear a story today about Jesus and a picnic.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

- *Only God Can Do*
- *My God is so Big*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, tell the story of **Jesus feeding the 5,000** by having the kids help act it out.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus is awesome! He can do anything. He fed more than 5000 people with just a little bit of food.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus feeds 5000!

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a small basket.

Say: Hamilton, what do you have there? ***He whispers in your ear.*** A picnic?! How fun. I have a story today about how Jesus made a picnic for so many people. Hamilton, it's time for you to have your picnic. See you next time. ***Put Hamilton away.***

Explain to the class that you are going to tell a story, and while you tell it, you need their help acting it out.

- Jesus and the people were (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Stand up and walk in place. Exaggerate your footsteps.***) **walking**. They walked for a long time.
- Then they (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Hold your hand to your ear. Lean in a little.***) **listened** to Jesus for a long time. He told them wonderful stories and instructions about God.
- They were all getting very (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Rub your tummy and have a wistful look on your face.***) **Hungry**. They hadn't had much to eat all day.
- A little boy offered his lunch. His lunch had some (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Put your hands together and "swim" them around so they look like a fish.***) **fish** and some bread.
- Jesus took that little boy's lunch with (***do the fish motion again***) **fish and bread**. Do you think that would be enough for over 5000 people??? (***Shake your head "no."***) **NO**. No way. That was just enough for 1 little boy.
- But Jesus looked up to God, His Father in heaven. He (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Put your hands together like you are praying***) **prayed**. He thanked God for the food.
- And then Jesus and the disciples started to (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Pretend to be passing out the food.***) **pass out the food**. All the people sat on the ground and started to (***wait while the kids guess what you are doing. Put your hand to your mouth like you are eating.***) **Eat!** Their tummies got all filled up.

Say: Jesus did a miracle! He made the little boy's lunch enough for all the people.

Say: Jesus is awesome! Let's say that together – Jesus is awesome!

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that Jesus is Awesome! (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: Jesus is Awesome! He is great and wonderful and cool and amazing and awesome!

Say: He can do anything! Let's tell Jesus how awesome He is. We'll say, You are awesome!
Say together: You are AWESOME!!

BLESSING (1 minute)

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Say: Friends, may you always remember that Jesus is Awesome and He loves YOU!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Coloring Sheet

Supplies: coloring sheet and crayons

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: Let's color this picture to help us remember how awesome God is!

While you are working with each child, ask:

- What is happening here?
- What is in the basket?
- Do you like to eat fish and bread?
- Jesus made enough food for all the people! Jesus is awesome!

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"

