

April 25th and 26th

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13–21; John 6:1–15
(Feeding of the 5,000)

Jesus Is Compassionate

REMEMBER VERSE

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Psalm 145:8

Schedule

1. DISCOVER : Big God Story
2. RESPOND : Worship Response, Small Group Questions and Optional Activities
3. BLESS : Speaking God's Truth Over Your Child

Supplies

- Bible
- Basket
- Bread
- Fish (Make fish out of paper) or use two toy fish
- Paper for fish
- Crayons
- Worship Song
- Paper for bread roll game
- Timer

- Tape to make a starting point
- Basket for bread roll game
- Pieces of paper
- Glass jar or glass cup

DISCOVER // Big God Story

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13–21; John 6:1–15

RELATE

In today's part of The Big God Story, a child offered his food to Jesus to help feed more than five thousand people. What began as two fish and five loaves of bread turned into enough food to feed thousands—with basketfuls left over—because Jesus had compassion on the hungry crowd and used the power of the Holy Spirit to feed them.

Set-up

Set up a space in your home to have your children act out the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Get out a basket with bread placed inside it and have your children make some fish out of paper. (Make the fish colorful) Toy fish will work as well.

Supplies

Basket for Bread

Bread

Fish (cut-outs) or toy fish

Read the following passage to your children:

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ 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.¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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: 13-21

After you read the passage to your children, ask your children if they would like for your family to act out Jesus feeding all 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Allow your children to be creative as they plan out the story—about 20 minutes should be enough time.

Read the passage again as your family acts out the lesson. Allow your children to be creative as they plan out the Bible story.

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RESPOND // Worship as Response

This time allows your children to respond to God through worship. Lead your children in a time of response. Pick a favorite family worship song with your children. Play the song during the Respond Time.

SUPPLIES

Worship Song

RELATE

Right before Jesus fed five thousand people, He heard some really sad news about John the Baptist being killed. Although Jesus wanted to be alone, He had compassion on the people who came to see Him. Instead of thinking only of Himself, He healed the sick, He comforted them, He fed them, and He told them about God.

Today some of you might need God to provide healing, comfort, or strength in your life. Talk as a family about what you need right now in your life. What does your family need? Jesus has compassion on all of these things in your life. He suffers with you. In this way, Jesus provides comfort to you. God provides exactly what we need in times of need.

Let’s pray for each other right now. Let’s begin by telling each other a way God has provided for you this past week and one way you would like God to comfort you. Then take turns thanking God and asking for His provision for your family.

Pray over your children during the week. Spend time praying that they will know Jesus has compassion on them and that He suffers with them. Pray God’s Spirit will stir up a spirit of compassion in each of them and that He will give them strength and courage to respond out of compassion, like Jesus.

// Small Group Questions

This time allows kids to open their Bibles, read the suggested passages and recap what they've learned in today's lesson.

Encourage your child to open the Bible and read the suggested passages.

Questions for Younger Kids

- **Why did Jesus feed the people?** Matthew 14:14
- **How did Jesus have compassion on the people?** Matthew 14:14, 19–20
- **If you had been in the crowd, how would you have described what happened?** Matthew 14:20–21
- **How can we have compassion on people?**

Questions for Older Kids

- **Why did Jesus feed the people?** Matthew 14:14
- **If you had been in the crowd, how would you have described what happened?** Matthew 14:19–21
- **What does this tell you about Jesus?** Matthew 14:14
- **What is the difference between compassion and simply feeling bad about something?**
- **Have there been times you felt compassion but didn't act on it? What were the reasons for that?**
- **How can we act on our compassion for people?**

// Optional Activities

Activity One

Jesus traveled around teaching people about the kingdom of God and what it means to love and obey God. Many, many people wanted to hear what Jesus had to say.

One day, Jesus was teaching a long way from town, and a large crowd of people gathered to hear Him. By the time He was done teaching, the crowd was hungry, so Jesus performed a miracle and multiplied a small amount of food to feed more than five thousand people! After everyone had been fed, the disciples gathered the leftovers, and there were 12 baskets of bread left!

Invite your children to each take a sheet of paper and crumple it up to create a “bread roll.” Next, have your children line up at the starting line. Start the stopwatch or watch the time and give your kids one minute to toss their rolls into the basket. If your child misses the basket, she can run to grab her roll and start again. Have fun!!

Activity Two

Children will consider people who need help and discuss specific ways they can show compassion to those in need.

SUPPLIES

- Glass jar (16 oz.)
- Slips of paper
- Markers or crayons

RELATE

When Jesus encountered the crowds, He showed compassion on them as He healed and taught them. Even though Jesus is God, He humbled Himself and served others, asking, “What needs to be done?” We should also stay sensitive to the needs of others and ask ourselves the question “What needs to be done?” in every situation.

Gather your family into a circle and have each family member grab a piece of paper and a marker or crayon. Work together as a family to think of kinds of people who need compassion (such as sick friends, overwhelmed teachers, busy moms, hungry homeless people, etc.) As each person calls out a suggestion, she should write it on the paper and place it in the jar. Choose one slip of paper each day during the week and pray for those people. (The people can be individual people with needs or groups of people)

BLESS//

Children receive a blessing from you. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

Pray this blessing of scripture over your children.

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.