

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Objective: The students will be able to tell the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and explain that Jesus feeds our spirit as well as our body.

For the Catechist

We belong to God's family through belief and Baptism. We have the gift of new life. This life must be nourished so that it can grow into a fullness of life. The ability to taste and eat is another one of God's gifts.

Food nourishes the body. By eating, strength returns and the body is built up. In the Old Testament as the Israelites wandered through the desert, God provided food (bread or manna) as long as they followed Him. (Exodus 16). The bread not only nourished them for the journey but was a sign of God's presence and care for His people. Although God cannot be seen, He gives us signs of His presence: His love and care for us.

Manna. Manna is a flake-like food which begins as a thick liquid. When the liquid dries out, it appears whitish or pale yellow and is somewhat transparent.

In chapter six of St. John's Gospel, we read about the multitudes that had followed Jesus and about the way He fed them with the help of a few fish and a few loaves of bread. The people were impressed. They remembered how God had given manna in the desert: "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world. Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone" (John 6:14-15). When the people found Jesus, He said, "I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:26-27).

Jesus gave the people a sign. They were satisfied because they had eaten their fill of the bread, but

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Prayer before Holy Communion [You may wish to have the prayer copied for your students to read until they memorize it.] [Refer to the "Liturgical Prayers According to Jurisdictions" in the section "Introduction to Grade 2" for the correct wording to use in your parish.]

Introduction: Discussion of importance of bread for life **Need:** bagel, tortilla, pita, or other breads from different countries

Read Text Aloud: Have students read text aloud.

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* The Multiplication of the Loaves
- *Group:* Re-enact the Feeding of the 5,000
- *Craft:* "Bread and Fish" Pop-up Card

Closing: Prayer before Holy Communion

Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:

Packet I:

Packet II: Miracle: Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes

Teaching Pic:

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they did not understand Jesus' message. The next lesson will help to explain Jesus' message—that He is the Bread of Life.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Artoklasia

"Special blessings of food are conducted in conjunction with the festal observances of the Church. On the Great Feasts five loaves of bread, recalling Christ's multiplication of the loaves, are blessed and shared during the vigil, along with wheat, wine and oil are blessed (the *artoklasia* or 'breaking of the bread')..."

"O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness, and thus sustained five thousand men, bless these loaves with this wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this holy place and for Your whole world... (Excerpt from the Blessing Service)" (LLII 92-93).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Our lesson today will help prepare us to learn about Holy Communion, and so our prayer for the next few lessons will be the Prayer before Holy Communion. Does anyone know how it begins? [Allow responses.] Do any of you say the prayer during the Divine Liturgy? I've printed it out for you, but I know that you can memorize it in the next few weeks. Next week I'll explain some of the words. Let's gather at the icon corner to pray.

Introduction

We have learned about how we become members of the God's people through Baptism and Chrismation. What happens at Baptism? (We receive new life in Christ; we are cleansed of sin; and we become members of the Church.) What happens at Chrismation? (We are sealed in our new life with the Holy Spirit.) One more mystery occurred on the day of your baptism. It has something to do with what I brought today. Can anyone guess what is in this bag? [Bring out brown bag containing breads from several countries and place it on the table. Allow children to guess.]

We need water to live. We need air to live. What else do we need? (Food) All over the world, people need this type of food to eat. It comes in many different varieties. [Allow guesses.]

[Modify according to the kinds of bread you brought.] Do you know what this is called? [Pull out a bagel, and allow guesses.] It is from Eastern Europe. Do you know what this is called? [Pull out a tortilla.] People in Mexico and Latin America eat tortillas. Do you know what this is called? [Pull out a pita bread.] People in the Middle East and in Greece eat this bread called pita, which means bread.

Do you like bread? What land of bread do you eat? Can you imagine not having bread? Bread is one of the basic foods for life.

For Christians, bread is very important. Can you think of any stories from the Bible that have to do with bread? [Allow responses.] Bread was important in Jesus' time. Let's read about a miracle that Jesus was able to do because a young child, like you, came to help Him.

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When we were baptized, we joined God's people. Because we are God's people, we can call God "Father."

Do you know the Lord's Prayer? In the Lord's Prayer we say, "Give us this day our daily bread." When Jesus lived, bread was very important. It was the food which people needed most.

There are many stories in the Bible about bread. A long time before Jesus, God's people were alone in the desert. They had no food and so they prayed to God. God sent down bread in the form of "manna" so they could eat. God took care of what the people needed.

44 End With Ex-Oratio 2

End With Ex-Oratio 2

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

It was the food which people needed most.

[Allow responses to the following:] When was the last time you ate bread? *How often do you eat bread?*

God took care of what the people needed.

What was the name of the food that God sent to His people when they were in the desert? (Manna)

[(Story is from John 6:1-15). Read the story pausing to ask:]

They were far from town.

The people had listened to Jesus for a long time. Why couldn't they get food to eat? (They were far from town.)

Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five barley loaves and two fish."

How many people needed to eat? (5,000)

It was a miracle.

Who came forward with food? (A boy) What did he offer? (Five loaves and two fish) What did Jesus do? (Blessed the food and gave it to the people) How many baskets were filled with leftovers? (12) It was a miracle. A miracle is something which you can't explain. How would you feel if you were there?



Many people had come to listen to Jesus. It had gotten late, and the people were hungry. They were far from town.

Jesus said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed the people?"

Philip replied, "There are 5,000 people! We do not have near enough money."

Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five barley loaves and two fish."

Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks to God. He gave the loaves and fish to the disciples to give to the people. Everyone had enough to eat. Food was left over. Jesus told the disciples, "Gather what remains."

Twelve baskets held the leftover food. It was a miracle (John 6:1-15).

Jesus' words fed their spirit.

Food feeds our bodies. Jesus' words feed us on the inside; they feed our spirit. Think about how you feel when someone tells you what a good job you've done? Words like that feed your spirit. They give you a happy spirit. They make you feel good even though they're not food. Jesus feeds our body and our spirit.

He will take care of what we need.

When can you listen to the words of Jesus? (In the Gospel) We need to trust God. God is our Creator. What is the most important thing we need? (Our faith) When everything is gone, there will still be God. For Christians, the most important thing in the world is not something you can see or food to eat. It is knowing God and knowing we will be with Him forever.

Let's review: We learned the story of the Feeding of the Multitudes. Will someone tell me the details? (The people listened to Jesus and were hungry but far from town. A boy gave Him five loaves and two fish. Jesus fed everyone.) Let's see if you can fill in the blanks in this sentence: Jesus feeds both our body and our _____ (spirit).

Activity Tracks

Basic: The Multiplication of the Loaves

Here's another page to help us remember this story. After each sentence, there are two words. Circle the right answer.



Jesus was concerned not only about feeding the body but also about feeding the spirit. Jesus used the bread and fish to feed their bodies. Jesus' words fed their spirit.

Jesus fed the people who were listening to Him. We need to listen to Jesus all the time. He will take care of what we need.

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The Multiplication of the Loaves

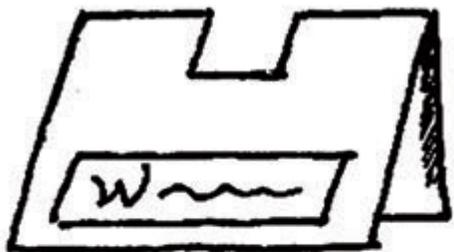
In the story we read today, Jesus fed many people with only a little food. How much can you remember about the story? Circle the correct answer to the questions.

1. From whom did Jesus receive loaves and fish? a boy a store
2. How many fish were there? five two
3. How many loaves were there? nine five
4. Jesus took the loaves and gave _____ to God. money thanks
5. How many people did Jesus feed? 3,000 5,000
6. How many baskets of leftovers were gathered by the disciples? six twelve
7. This story is called "The ____". Feeding of the Five Thousand Last Supper



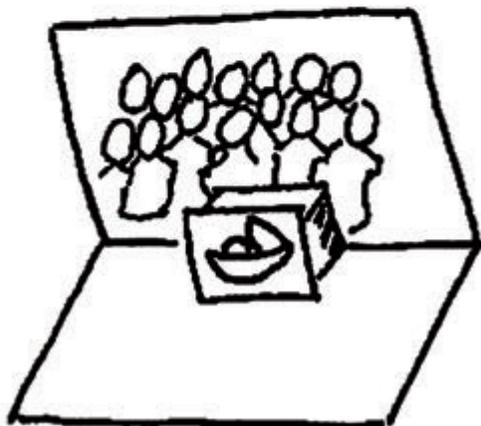
Group: "Re-enact the Feeding of the 5,000

We learned a story from the Bible today that is great for acting. We'll need people to play these roles: Narrator, Jesus, boy, Philip, Andrew, and three disciples. Let's read through the story again; and if you have a speaking part, read your lines. Let's make our stage the front of the classroom. As we read, let's decide how you'll enter and leave the stage and what you can do to act your part. [After the "walk-through," let the children try to do the play without help. If they do well, you may wish to have a younger class watch. If you have many students, let others take a turn playing the roles.]



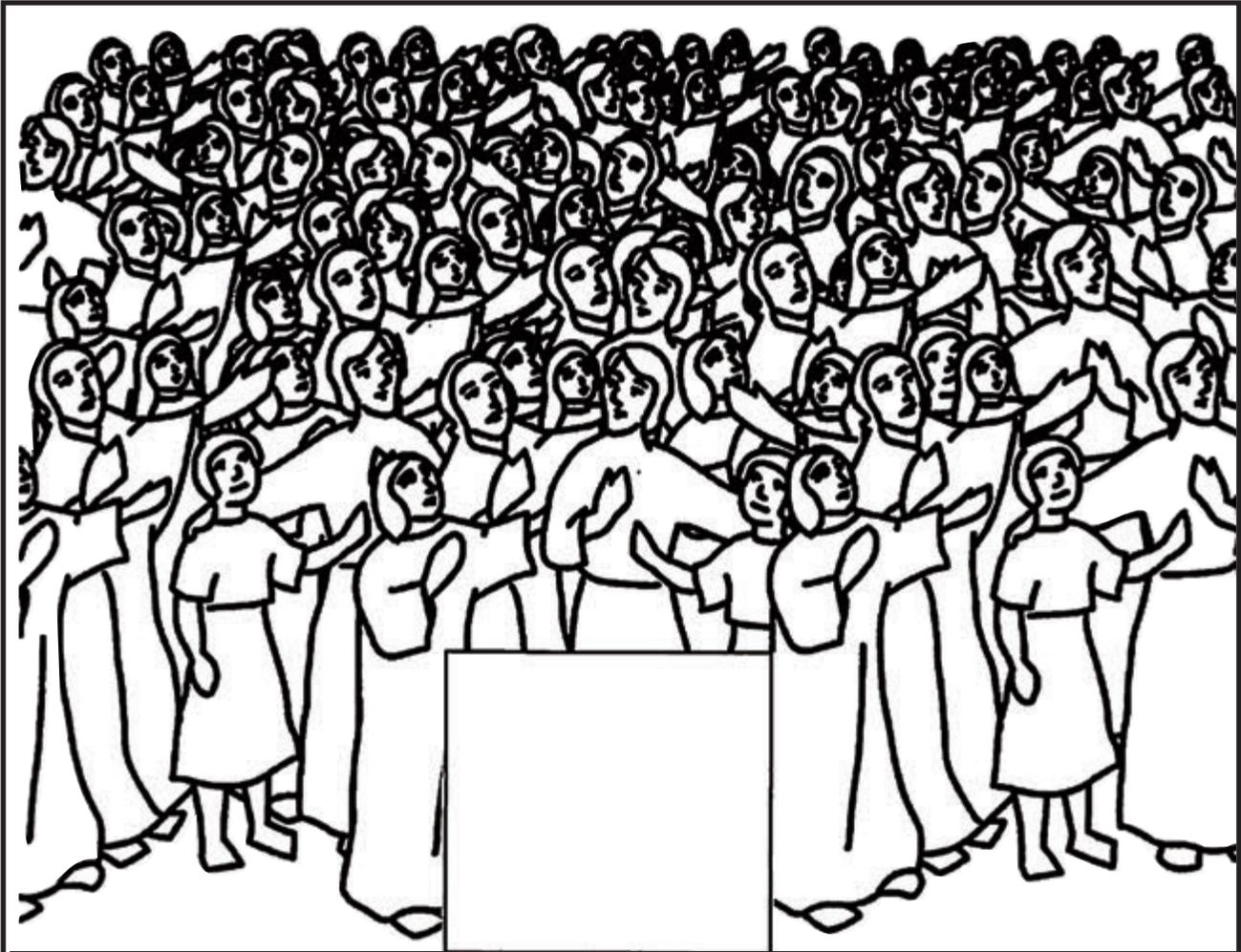
Craft: "Bread and Fish" Pop-up Card

Materials: "Card" worksheet copied onto heavier paper, "Titles" worksheet, "Bread and Fish" worksheet, scissors, markers, glue stick



[Ahead of time, start the cuts for the pop-up. Have sample ready to show children.] *Today we learned that Jesus fed 5,000 people with a few loaves and fish. To help us remember the lesson, we'll make a pop-up project. The front of the card reads, "With five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed 5,000." When you open the card, you see the people Jesus fed; and five loaves and two fish pop up. First, color the people on the inside of the card and also the bread and fish and the title. Cut out the card, the title and the bread and fish. Fold the card on the fold line, and then cut on the two lines that are marked. When you open the card, push the strip that you cut into the card, and fold the fold line the other way. Then you can paste the bread and fish onto the bottom part of the strip. Close the card, and paste the title strip on the front. Then open the card and paste the bread and fish on the bottom half of the strip, so they stand up when the card is opened.*

Closing: *Our closing prayer today is the same as our opening prayer. See if you can say any of it from memory. If you need to, you may look at your paper.*



Fold
Line

<-- Cut two vertical
parallel lines -->
Top, bottom, and middle
lines are fold lines.
Bread and fish basket
will be pasted on top of
this type.

With five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed 5,000.

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