

Bible background

Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13

Aim of lesson

- (a) To show that Jesus can do miracles, and
- (b) To encourage the children to thank God for the food he supplies.

Preparation required

Prepare one activity sheet by colouring, cutting lengthwise, taping into one long strip and folding, concertina fashion, into a booklet. You will need colouring materials, tape and scissors during the lesson. Get to know the rhyme well, and place a copy where you can glance at it while still keeping your eyes on the children.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Hold the booklet up to show the class one page at a time, and read the rhyme, stopping to discuss what is happening, and to ask the class what they would have done, felt or thought.
2. Read through the rhyme with the booklet again, allowing the children to supply the last word of each couplet.
3. Go through each page of the booklet again asking the children to tell you what is happening at each picture.
4. Help the class to make their own booklet. As they colour each picture ask questions and discuss the lesson again.
5. Ask each child to hold up the correct page of their booklet as you go through the rhyme again. Encourage them to join in as they remember it.

Alternative activities

1. Make loaves and fishes out of play dough. Make card/play dough baskets to put them in.
2. Cut sponges into fish and loaf shapes and do some printing.
3. Dress up and have an indoor picnic (fish shaped sweets add to the fun!)

Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the children to be grateful for the food God gives them.

Prayer

Ask what the boy with the loaves and fishes might have prayed that night, or the people who were fed.

Verse

'Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven he gave thanks.' Matthew 14:19.

Rhyme

Out on the hillside far away
Crowds came to listen to Jesus all day.
'It's getting late,' the disciples said
'Send the people away to get some bread.'
'The people don't need to go off to town,'
Jesus replied, 'Make the people sit down.'
'You feed the people,' Jesus said.
The disciples replied 'But we have no bread!'
Andrew said 'Here's a boy I've found.
He has some food, but not enough to go round.'
Jesus took the loaves and fish and then
He prayed and said 'Now give it to them.'
The disciples thought it would soon be gone
But there was enough for everyone!
So now you know how Jesus fed
Five thousand people with five loaves of bread
and two fish.