

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: All I Need Is a Miracle (Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand) • *John 6:1-13*

Today's Bottom Line: Use what you have to help others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The LORD has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.* Micah 6:8 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Leader enters.

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

KERRI: "What is UP, my friends, my pals, my neighbors? It's great to see all of you here at kid zone. It's like we have our own little neighborhood here—our own block—where we can do the things that neighbors do! Being a neighbor means looking out for the people around you and showing them compassion.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"Remember, **compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.**

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"There are lots of ways we can do that, right? We can encourage someone by telling them, 'I'm so glad we're friends!' If someone looks lonely, we can ask them to sit with us at lunch. (*Hold up the bag of Goldfish®.*) If you've got a snack and you see that someone else forgot theirs, you can offer to share what you've got!

"Our game today will be a fun way to practice filling each other's cups. Everyone, partner up!

Have the partners stand on opposite sides of the masking tape lines. Give empty cups to everyone in one line. The other partners should get cups full of Goldfish crackers (ten crackers in each cup).

If you have an odd number of kids, you can play, too.

“When I say ‘Go,’ you’ll start tossing Goldfish® into your partner’s cup. If you’re the one catching the Goldfish, you can’t move your feet; but you CAN move your cup around to try to catch the crackers. (*Demonstrate.*) When the music stops, we’ll count the goldfish in your cup, and the top three teams that caught the most goldfish will move on to the next round. Got it? Good.

“On your mark, get set, GO!

AUDIO: Fun, upbeat music

Comment on the action as the kids play. Make sure they don’t move their feet—only their arms—as they try to catch the crackers. When the kids run out of crackers to toss, stop the music and have their teammates count how many they caught. Have the top three teams move on to the next round.

Have everyone help gather the crackers on the ground. Collect them all in the plastic bin. Refill the cups for the three teams who will play the next round. The throwers’ cups should each have ten crackers again and the catchers’ cups should be empty.

“It’s time to determine our ultimate champions. But we’ll make this round a little bit harder. Each thrower needs to take two big steps back.

Make sure everyone is equal, then put a piece of masking tape down to make a new line for the throwers to stand behind.

“All right, I think we’re ready. Contestants . . . on your mark, get set, GO!

AUDIO: Fun, upbeat music

Comment on the action as the kids play. When they run out of crackers to toss, stop the music and have their teammates count how many they caught. You can check their cups to make sure the number is correct before you declare the winner.

Collect all of the crackers and cups. Have a backstage volunteer redistribute the Goldfish® crackers in the cups so that they’re ready for the Bible story. (For the story, you’ll need five crackers in each cup, and one cup for each kid.)

“Nice job of filling each other’s cups, everyone! Now let’s all get on our feet because it’s time to sing some songs and worship God!”

WORSHIP

FANNY: “Before we sing, let’s check out this video.

Video (Media Package): Live Loud Video from Get Reel

“We have an important purpose: to share God’s love with others, every chance we get. Our memory verse, Micah 6:8, reminds us of that truth.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God. (Micah 6:8, NIV)”

“Let’s sing about that as we praise God together!

Video: “Love One Another” Dance Moves Music Video

“God’s love is limitless. That means we can just keep sharing it with others, because it’ll never run out! We can choose to show compassion to the people God has put in our lives. Let’s keep singing and celebrating the amazing love that God has given us.

Video: “This Love”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“It’s so fun to worship God with all of you! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “We’ve got a great story to look at today that’s another amazing example of compassion. I thought it would be fun if you could try to guess what happens next.

“You’ll get to guess . . . using the Goldfish® from our game!

Bring out the cups of Goldfish. Give a cup to each kid.

“Remember, these are the same Goldfish crackers from before; so they’ve been on the floor and in everyone’s hands—meaning you do NOT want to eat them. In fact, I’ll have some un-germy Goldfish to give you at the end of today, so no need to eat these!

“You’ve got five Goldfish, because there will be five times when I ask you what you think happened next in the story.

Set up the three baskets that are labeled A, B, and C.

“If you think the answer is A, toss a fish in the A basket. If you think it’s B, toss a fish in B. If you think

it's C, toss a fish in C. You can come up close to the basket and toss your fish so you're sure to make it in. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* All right! Let's get started.

"This story happened at a time when Jesus had been performing miracles and healing people. Crowds gathered everywhere He went. So when Jesus needed some time away, He crossed the Sea of Galilee with His friends.

Read the question and possible answers from the printed script.

"What do you think Jesus and His friends found on the other side?

"A) A chicken, B) A crowd of people, or C) A water park.

"Vote for your answer by tossing one fish into the basket with the matching letter.

Give the kids a few seconds to "vote" with their crackers. Repeat the choices, if needed. Then look into the baskets to see which letter got the most votes.

"It looks like most of you thought it was answer [letter with most fish], and you were . . . [right/wrong]! It was B.

Dump the Goldfish into the plastic bin so that the baskets are empty for the next question. (Just leave any crackers that were missed; you can clean them up at the end.)

"Jesus was probably looking forward to a quiet day on the mountainside overlooking the lake. But the crowds had followed. There were THOUSANDS of people who had come to see Him!"

A HUNGRY CROWD

LEADER: "Even though He was tired, Jesus had compassion for the people. He began to teach them.

"As the sun sank lower, though, the crowd grew restless. No one had planned to stay all day, and they were hungry. Jesus knew how He would provide a meal. But first, He turned to His friend Philip. Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread for the crowd.

"What do you think Philip said?

Read the question and possible answers from the printed script.

"A) It would be too expensive, B) Let's ask the town baker, or C) Let's go to [local grocery store's name].

"What do you think: A, B, or C?

Give the kids a few seconds to "vote" with their fish. Repeat the choices, if needed. Then look in the baskets to see which letter got the most votes.

"It looks like most of you thought it was answer [letter with most fish], and you were. . . [right/wrong]! It was A.

Dump the fish into the plastic bin so that the baskets are empty for the next question.

"Let's read what Philip said to Jesus.

Open the Bible to John 6:7 (NIRV) and read.

"Philip answered him, 'Suppose we were able to buy enough bread for each person to have just a bite. That would take more than half a year's pay!'"

"In other words, 'It would be WAY too expensive to buy food for all these people!' Feeding the crowd certainly seemed like an impossible job. Jesus' friends started to check around and see if anyone brought any food that they could use."

LOAVES AND FISH

LEADER: "Another of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, spoke up. Andrew said that he had found something. What do you think he found?"

Read the question and possible answers from the printed script.

"A) A [local fast food restaurant] around the corner, B) A boy with some food to share, or C) A food truck.

"What do you think: A, B, or C?"

Give the kids a few seconds to "vote" with their fish. Repeat the choices, if needed. Then look in the baskets to see which letter got the most votes.

"It looks like most of you thought it was answer [letter with most fish], and you were. . . [right/wrong]! It was B.

Dump the fish into the plastic bin so that the baskets are empty for the next question.

"Andrew said . . .

*Open the Bible to **John 6:9 (NIRV)** and read.*

"Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?"

"Interesting! Let's set this scene so we're all clear. There were several THOUSAND people there that day, and Andrew brought up a boy with five small loaves of bread and two small fish.

"Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down.

Read the question and possible answers from the printed script.

“What do you think Jesus did next?

“A) He led everyone in a game of ‘Duck, Duck, Goose’; B) He tossed the food up into the air; or C) He handed out the food to the crowd.

“What do you think: A, B, or C?

*Give the kids a few seconds to “vote” with their fish.
Repeat the choices, if needed. Then look in the baskets to see which letter got the most votes.*

“It looks like most of you thought it was answer [letter with most fish], and you were. . . [right/wrong]! It was C.

Dump the fish into the plastic bin so the baskets are empty for the next question.

“Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God for the bread, then handed it out. He gave the people as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.”

LEFTOVERS!

LEADER: “EVERYONE ate until they’d had their fill. That’s right—all those thousands of people! Then, Jesus told the disciples to gather the leftover pieces.

Read the question and possible answers from the printed script.

“What do you think the disciples found when they went around to collect the leftovers?

“A) There was enough leftover food to fill 12 baskets, B) There was nothing left; the people had eaten it all, or C) People only ate the bread, but not the fish.

What do you think: A, B, or C?

*Give the kids a few seconds to “vote” with their fish.
Repeat the choices, if needed. Then look in the baskets to see which letter got the most votes.*

“It looks like most of you thought it was answer [letter with the most fish], and you were. . . [right/wrong]! It was A.

“Can you believe that? The disciples filled 12 baskets with leftovers!

Hold up the letter A basket.

“Not only did the five small loaves and two fish manage to feed thousands of people, but there were

leftovers—a LOT of them!

“As you can imagine, the people there that day were pretty amazed by what they had seen. If Jesus could do something so amazing, maybe He really was the Savior God had promised! The people said . . .

Open the Bible to [John 6:14 \(NirV\)](#) and read.

“This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world.”

Dump the fish crackers into the plastic bin, then put the three empty baskets in the bin. Take a few seconds to sweep up any missed crackers and dump those in the bin, as well.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “It’s amazing that Jesus fed SO many people with such a small amount of food! It’s also amazing to think that Jesus cared so deeply about every person there that day. He was able to use one boy’s simple meal to meet every single person’s need.

“We all have things we can share—just like the boy who brought his bread and fish. We may not always feel like we have much to offer; but God can use the things we have to do amazing things for the people around us.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Use what you have to help others.

“Let’s ask God to help us do that.”

Video: BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and show us what it looks like to show compassion for others. Sometimes it’s easy to think we don’t have enough to help anyone. But when we hear this story about Jesus and the bread and fish, it shows us that we can use what we have to help others. Show us how we can make a difference and meet the needs of the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “When the boy showed up to see Jesus, he was part of a crowd of thousands of other people. It probably never crossed his mind that he could be a part of a miracle! All he had to offer were five loaves of bread and two fish . . . and Jesus used that one small meal to feed EVERYONE.

“You never know what God might do when you **[Bottom Line] use what you have to help others.**

“That’s what we need to remember today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Use what you have to help others.

“So what are some things you have? How about your hands? (*Hold up your hands.*) You can use your hands to help lift things . . . clean things . . . and fix things that are broken.

(*Point to your head.*) “You can use your head to help solve problems or help someone understand a tough assignment at school.

(*Point to your ears.*) “You can use your ears to listen . . . and be there for a friend.

“If you’re not sure what you can do to help, just remember that **[Basic Truth] I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** Think about what you’d want someone to do for you . . . then find a way to do that for someone else. You never know how God might work through you when you **[Bottom Line] use what you have to help others.**

“You know what else you have? (*Point to your feet.*) Your feet! Let’s put those to work and head to Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups. Either pass out the Goldfish® packs here, or wait until pick-up.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop