



Bible Point ▶

Jesus can do anything.

Bible Verse

“I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will hear how Jesus fed 5,000 people with one small lunch, experience sharing food with other children, help Whiskers understand Jesus’ great miracle, and sing a song to celebrate Jesus’ miracle.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

Jesus feeds more than 5,000 people.

**John
6:1-14**



In today’s passage we see Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee to temporarily get away from the crowds that at this time in his ministry were constantly pressing him. But even on the mountainside with his disciples, the crowds found him. Instead of being disgusted that his privacy was being invaded, Jesus’ first thought was for the well-being of those seeking him. He wanted to provide food for them.

We don’t know how many women and children were in the crowd, but if there were 5,000 men, there could have been 10,000 or more people in the crowd Jesus fed with five little loaves and two dried fish. That miracle definitely confirmed to people that Jesus was someone special!

Jesus cares about our needs just like he cared about the needs of the people on the mountainside that day. Your preschoolers can begin to learn that Jesus cares about them in the same way!

Prayer

- Read Matthew 14:13-21.
- What additional information does Matthew provide on this event?
- What miracles of God’s provision have you seen in your life?
- Pray: God, help me to trust in your provision for me. Help my students see how they can depend on you to...








Before the Lesson

Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.

Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.

Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Fish Name Tags" (p. 97), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Many From Few —Make two fish into many, and hear how Jesus used fish to feed a crowd of people.	Colored yarn, scissors, tape	
	Option 2: Lunch Time —Fix pretend lunches, and hear how Jesus used one boy's lunch to feed a crowd.	Toy dishes, pretend food	
	Option 3: Something for Everyone —Break bread into many pieces, and hear how Jesus broke loaves of bread to feed a crowd.	Paper plates, bread slices	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Share pieces of bread.	Bread pieces from Option 3	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear how Jesus fed 5,000 people.	Bible, "Miracle Fish" pattern (p. 110), scissors, construction paper, paper clips	
	Do the Bible Story —Sing an action song to review the Bible story.	CD player	
Closing 	Many Meals for Mice —Teach Whiskers how Jesus fed many people with a small amount of food.		
	Miracle Lunch —Sing a song, and thank God for miracles.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Fish Name Tags” (p. 97), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about the sick man?” or “How did the sick man get well?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► *Jesus can do anything.***
- Hand out the fish name tags children made during Lesson 6, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How much food do you think we’d need to feed everyone in our church?” or “How many people could eat if we had just one lunch to share?”

Option 1: Many From Few

SUPPLIES: colored yarn, scissors, tape

Before class, cut two 36-inch lengths of colored yarn. Lay each length of yarn on a table in a fish shape, as shown in the margin illustration.

Tell children that they’re going to make these two fish into many more fish. Cut each length of yarn into six to nine pieces, and show children how to make each piece into a fish shape. You may need to tape the small fish to the table to help them retain their shape. As children fill the table with fish, explain that today’s Bible story is about a time Jesus fed a crowd of people with two fish and five loaves of bread.



If children enjoy making the fish shapes, you may want to cut additional 4- to 6-inch lengths of yarn and let them make more fish.

Option 2: Lunch Time

SUPPLIES: toy dishes, pretend food

Set out toy dishes and pretend food, and let children take turns fixing each other picnic lunches. As they play, talk with them about places they like to go for picnics and foods they like to take with them. Explain that today’s Bible story is about a time Jesus used one boy’s picnic lunch to feed a whole crowd of people.



Option 3: Something for Everyone

SUPPLIES: paper plates, bread slices

Set out two paper plates and five slices of bread. Break the bread into pieces so that each child has one piece. Have children wash their hands, and then give them the bread pieces. Have children break the bread into smaller pieces and put the smaller pieces on the paper plates. When the bread is broken into pieces, ask the children if they think that these two plates of food could feed all the people in the church. Explain that today's Bible story is about how Jesus fed a meal to a crowd of people with five small loaves of bread and two little fish. Set the plates aside until Setting the Stage.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: bread pieces from Option 3

Tell children you'll clap your hands three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap your hands, the children are to stop what they're doing and repeat the clap. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Made string fish; made a pretend lunch; put pieces of bread on plates.)

Say: **Some of you made a few fish into lots of fish, some of you made a few pieces of bread into lots of bread pieces, and some of you got ready to go on pretend picnics. You were all learning important things about our Bible story.**

If you packed a pretend picnic, stand up, rub your tummy, and say "yum-yum," and then sit down. Pause. If you made a few fish into lots of fish,



stand up and swim over to the table, and then swim back and sit down.

Pause. **If you helped make bread pieces, help carry the plates to me.**

Wait for the children to bring you the bread pieces and sit down. Then pass the plates around, and let each child sample a few pieces. As they eat, ask:

- **Do you think these bread pieces would be enough for lunch?**
- **Do you think these bread pieces could feed 100 people? How about 1,000 people?**

Let children respond, and then say: **Today we're going to hear how Jesus made lunch for more than 5,000 people with just two fish and five loaves of bread. We couldn't make our bread pieces feed 5,000 people, but Jesus could. ► Jesus can do anything. Let's bring out our Bible now and hear how he fed all those people.**



Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today. Each week one of you will get to be the Bible helper.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *happy-face stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *happy-face stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad We’re Together” (track 4) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.”



SING
 I’m so glad we’re together.
 Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’.
 I’m so glad we’re all here today.
 I’m so glad we’re together.
 Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’—
 Prayin’ for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who’s here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, “Miracle Fish” pattern (p. 110), scissors, construction paper, paper clips



Before class, photocopy the “Miracle Fish” pattern, fold the paper in half, and cut out only the outline of the fish. You will also need to pop out two of the *fish stencils* from the Learning Lab. On construction paper, trace fish patterns from the *fish stencils*, and cut those out. (You will need at least one for each child, plus 12 extras.) Paper-clip several of the construction paper fish behind each of the two pop-out *fish stencils* so that it looks as if you have just two fish. Have the fish and a pair of scissors ready nearby.

Gather the children around the *Learning Mat: Jesus Can Do Anything*. Open the Bible to **John 6:1-14**, and show the story to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the book of John in the Bible, God’s special book. Our Learning Mat shows pictures of our Bible story.**

Say: **Raise your hand if you’ve ever been on a picnic.**

Ask: • **What do you like to eat when you go on a picnic?** (Sandwiches; peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; cookies.)

• **Where do you like to go to eat your picnic lunch?** (Outside; to the park; in my back yard.)

Say: **Well, today we’re going to pretend that we’re all on a picnic. Let’s pretend that we’ve been listening to Jesus all morning and he’s teaching us lots of things about God’s love. It’s great to sit outside on the soft, green grass and listen to Jesus! But we’ve been sitting here for a long time, and we’re starting to get hungry. When I count to three, let’s all rub our tummies and say, “Ohh, I’m hungry!” One, two, three.**

Lead children in rubbing their tummies and saying, “Ohh, I’m hungry!” Then point to the picture of Jesus and the crowd on the *Learning Mat*.

Say: **Look at these people on our Learning Mat. Do you think they look hungry? They were hungry all right. But all the people were so excited**

about listening to Jesus that they had forgotten to bring any food!

Ask: • **What do you think they did?** (They went to the store; they went home to get some.)

Say: **They didn't have fast-food restaurants in Jesus' time. They didn't even have refrigerators or grocery stores. There was no place for all those people to buy food. So Jesus sent his helpers into the crowd to find out if anyone had any food to share. Turn to the person next to you, and ask, "Do you have any food?"** Pause.

Hold up the two fish. Say: **Jesus' helpers found one little boy who had two little fish and five loaves of bread. The little boy was glad to share his lunch. But do you think two little fish and five loaves of bread would feed all those people?**

Jesus said a prayer for the two fish and five loaves of bread. Then he asked his helpers to start passing out the fish and bread. Take the paper clip off the fish, and then hand them to two children to pass out to the rest of the class. Kids will be surprised as they realize that there are lots more fish behind the first two fish! There should be enough fish for everyone, with some leftovers.

As kids are passing out the fish, hold up the fish pattern and begin cutting the fish along the lines at both edges as you continue: **They thought for sure they were going to run out, but they just kept passing and passing. Just as we have enough fish for everyone!** Finish cutting the fish pattern, and then stretch out the fish. Say: **All the people in the crowd had enough to eat. Jesus made two fish and five loaves of bread stretch to feed more than 5,000 people! Jesus' helpers even picked up 12 baskets of leftovers.** Show kids the left-over fish that you have. ► ***Jesus can do anything*—even turn a little lunch into enough food to feed a hungry crowd.**

Let's open the window on our *Learning Mat* to see how the people looked after Jesus fed them. Show me what you look like after you've eaten a good lunch.

As children show full or satisfied expressions, open the window to reveal the smiling, happy crowd. Say: **When Jesus fed all those people, he did a miracle. That means he did something great that no one else can do. We couldn't make two fish and five loaves of bread feed that many people—we can only pretend, like we did today—but Jesus can really do it!** ► ***Jesus can do anything.***



Ask: **How do you think the little boy felt when Jesus used his fish and loaves of bread to feed so many people?** (Special; surprised; happy.)

Say: **That little boy was just like us; he knew he couldn't save everyone all by himself. But when Jesus helped him, the little boy could do anything. Remember, our Bible verse in Philippians 4:13 says ► "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Let's say that verse together, and after we say it, let's clap our hands for Jesus.**

Repeat the Bible verse with the children, and then lead them in enthusiastic applause!



Say: **Now let's sing a song to help us remember how Jesus fed the crowd.**
Save the *fish stencils* and the paper fish you cut out for use in Lesson 9.

Do the Bible Story



BIBLE POINT ▶



track 12

SUPPLIES: CD player

Say: ▶ **Jesus can do anything.** He fed more than 5,000 people with just two fish and five loaves of bread. Let's sing a song about that miracle lunch. First you

can do the motions with me and then sing along.

Lead children in singing "The Miracle Lunch" (track 12) with the CD to the tune of "Old MacDonald." As you sing, do the motions as indicated.



SING

A little boy said, "Here, take my lunch (*hold out hands, palms up*);
I'm really glad to share!" (*Nod head.*)

And with that lunch, Jesus fed the whole bunch (*sweep right arm in front of you*)—

Every person there. (*Sweep left arm in front of you.*)

With five little loaves (*hold up five fingers on right hand*)

And two little fish (*hold up two fingers on left hand*)—

Here a loaf (*hold out right hand, palm up*),

There a fish (*hold out left hand, palm up*)—

Mmm, that's a yummy dish! (*Rub tummy.*)

Jesus made a miracle lunch (*point up to heaven*)

When a little boy said, "I'll share!" (*Hold out both hands, palms up.*)
(Repeat.)

Turn off the CD, and say: **Our friend Whiskers loves to go on picnics. I bet he'd like to hear our story about the miracle lunch. When I count to three, let's call for Whiskers. One, two, three: Whiskers! Whiskers!**

Lead children in calling for Whiskers.

Closing

Many Meals for Mice

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers, and go through the following script. When you finish, put Whiskers away and out of sight.





Whiskers: (*Sniffing the air*) Do I smell bread? Was someone eating bread in here today? Bread is one of my favorite foods—especially if I can have it with cheese.

Teacher: Well, we did eat some bread pieces a little while ago. We went on a pretend picnic, like the one Jesus had in the Bible.

Whiskers: Oh, I love picnics! I didn't know that Jesus went on picnics, too. I like to take Swiss cheese sandwiches! What did Jesus bring?

Teacher: Your friends can tell you. Children, let's tell Whiskers how Jesus fed all the people.
(*Lead children in telling Whiskers how Jesus used one little boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish to feed the crowd.*)

Whiskers: Five small loaves of bread. Hmm. Well, that's not such a big deal. Five small loaves of bread would feed my family for a whole month.

Teacher: Maybe. But do you think it would be enough for your family and Cousin Joey's family and all the other mice families on your street? Jesus fed a lot of families with just that small lunch.

Whiskers: My family and Cousin Joey's family and all the other mice families? I guess I didn't think of it that way. That's amazing. And they even had leftovers? Wow! Jesus is so great. I bet ► Jesus can do anything.

Teacher: That's right, Whiskers. ► Jesus can do anything. Let's say that Bible Point together.
(*Lead Whiskers and the children in repeating the Bible Point.*)

Whiskers: Thanks for telling me that great story. I think I'll tell it to my family at dinner tonight. Goodbye! See you next time!

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Miracle Lunch

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Let's sing our "Miracle Lunch" song one more time to help us remember the great miracle Jesus did.**

Lead children in singing "The Miracle Lunch" (track 12) with the CD to the tune of "Old MacDonald." As you sing, do the motions.





SING

A little boy said, “Here, take my lunch *(hold out hands, palms up);*
I’m really glad to share.” *(Nod head.)*
And with that lunch, Jesus fed the whole bunch *(sweep right arm in front of*
you)—
Every person there. *(Sweep left arm in front of you.)*
With five little loaves *(hold up five fingers on right hand)*
And two little fish *(hold up two fingers on left hand)—*
Here a loaf *(hold out right hand, palm up),*
There a fish *(hold out left hand, palm up)—*
Mmm, that’s a yummy dish! *(Rub tummy.)*
Jesus made a miracle lunch *(point up to heaven)*
When a little boy said, “I’ll share.” *(Hold out both hands, palms up.)*
(Repeat.)



BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: ▶ ***Jesus can do anything.*** Let’s thank God for the great miracle Jesus did. Dear God, thank you for the great miracle Jesus did when he fed all those people. We’re glad that ▶ ***Jesus can do anything*** and that he’s taking care of us today. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

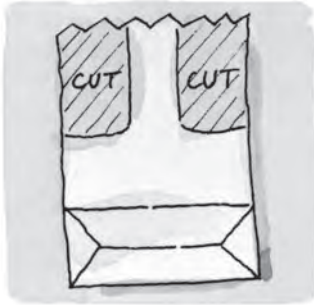
Lively Learning: Sing for Your Lunch

Gather children in a circle, and sing “Sing for Your Lunch” to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.” As you sing, do the motions.



One little, two little, three little loaves of bread (*hold up one finger, and then two, and then three*),
Three little, four little, five little loaves of bread. (*Hold up three, and then four, and then all five fingers.*)
Just two fish to go with our loaves of bread (*hold up two fingers on the other hand*),
But Jesus could feed us all! (*Hold both arms out with hands outstretched.*)

Make to Take: Lunch-Sack Baskets



Give each child a paper lunch sack. Help children cut their sacks to make baskets, as shown here. Let children decorate their sack baskets with crayons, markers, or other art supplies you have on hand. Then help them open up the sacks and tape or staple the top to form a handle. As children work, remind them that Jesus’ disciples collected 12 baskets of food after everyone had had enough.

Treat to Eat: Fishy Snack

Give each child seven fish crackers. Let children count out two crackers for the two fish and five crackers for the five loaves of bread. Before children enjoy the snack, thank God for providing it, just as he provided lunch for all the people who were listening to Jesus.

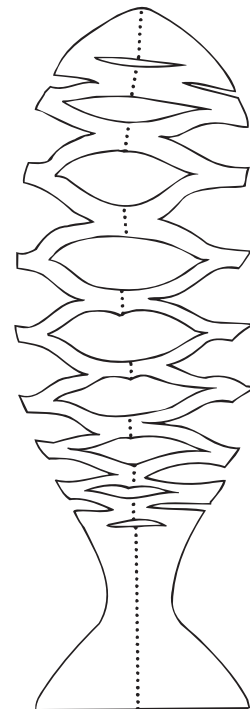
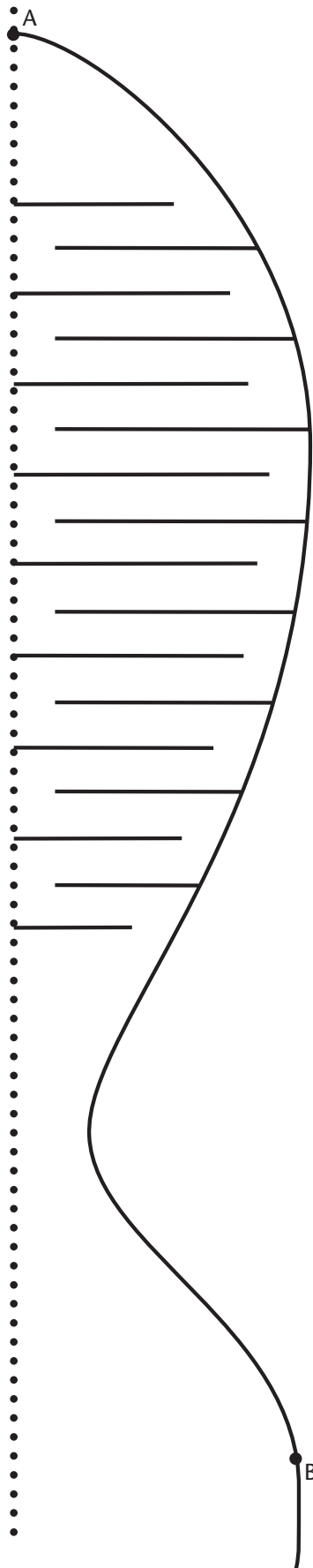


Story Picture: Little Boy Shares His Lunch

Before class, cut circles the size of 50-cent pieces from a brown paper lunch sack. Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Let children color the picture. Set out glue and the brown paper circles. Help children glue circles to the little boy’s lunch sack in the picture. As children work, talk about how amazed the people must have been when Jesus fed the crowd with just two fish and five small loaves of bread.

Miracle Fish

Make one photocopy of the fish pattern. Fold the paper along the dotted line, and cut along the solid line from A to B. Also cut shorter solid lines. Refer to the Bible story on pages 104-105.



Today I learned...

Jesus can do anything.

Help me learn this:

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Ask me:

What was in the little boy's lunch?

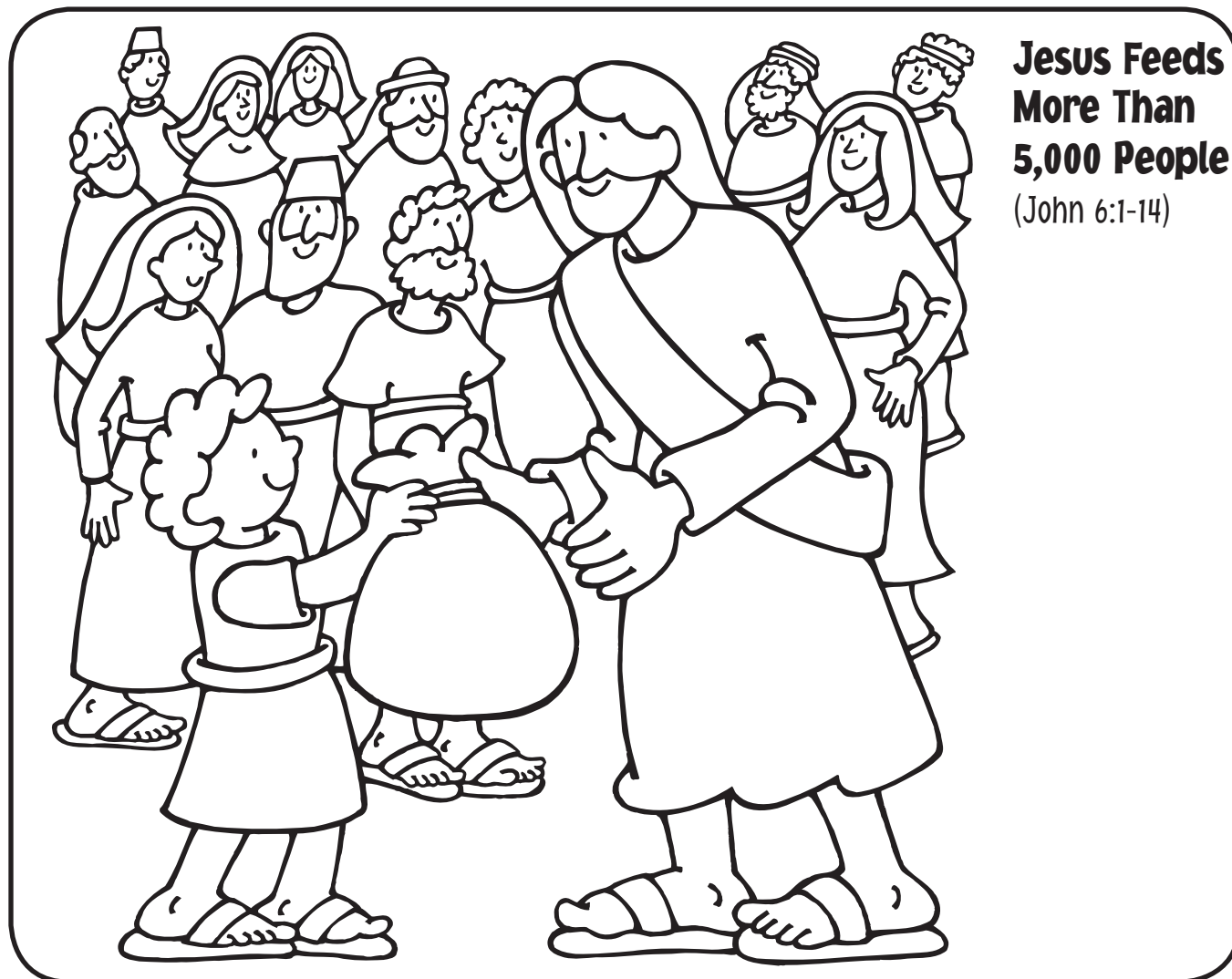
Would you have given your lunch to Jesus to share with everyone? Explain.

How did the people feel before Jesus fed them? How did they feel after they'd had enough to eat?

Family Fun

Plan a family picnic. Go in your back yard, to a local park, or spread a blanket on your living room floor. Pretend you're going to hear Jesus speak. Take along your favorite lunch foods and a recording of your favorite Bible story to listen to while you eat your lunch.

Lesson 7
Today your child learned that **JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.** Children heard how Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with just two fish and five small loaves of bread. They learned a song about Jesus' miracle.



Jesus Feeds More Than 5,000 People
(John 6:1-14)

