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STORY 66

The Happy Meal That Kept on Going

MARK 6

BEFORE THE LESSON

1 Read

- ☐ *Read Mark 6.*
- ☐ *Pray for God's help. Ask for the Spirit's help in understanding the passage and for the Lord to open the children's eyes to see who he is what he has done, and how they should respond to him.*
- ☐ *Study the lesson plan below. Use these sections as suggestions. Think of ways to teach it in your own voice.*

THE BIG PICTURE

2 Teach

Help children see how this story connects with the other lessons. Build anticipation by introducing the setting and the significance of what is about to happen in this week's story. {5 minutes}

God loves his people. And he shows his love in many different ways. One way he shows his love is by providing food. Food? Yes, food! The garden of Eden was filled with the freshest fruits. Adam and Eve could eat from all the trees but one. That's a lot of mangoes, cherries, olives, almonds, and coconuts. Then, in the wilderness, God provided daily bread from heaven. It must have tasted wonderful. Finally, the promised land was called a land flowing with milk and honey. Imagine how yummy a honey milkshake would taste after wandering through the dry desert.

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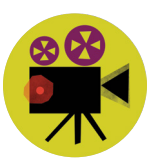
So, when God's people thought about the coming Christ, they pictured someone who would save them from sin, sickness, and even death and the devil. But they also thought about food! They believed with the coming of the promised king would come some meals so satisfying they would fill you with joy—true happy meals! So, it is no surprise that when the promised King came, he showed God's love to God's people in ways they expected: healings from his hand and all the food they would ever need.

TELL THE STORY

Share the story in one of these three ways. {5–10 minutes}

Read the Bible passage together

Read from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*



Play *The Biggest Story* video

TEACH THE STORY

Retell the story with an emphasis on what it says about God and about us. {10 minutes}

Big Truth

Jesus is the bread of life.

Have you ever said, "I'm starving!" We all say that from time to time when we're really hungry. But we aren't really starving to death. What is the longest amount of time you've gone without food? Have you ever skipped breakfast, lunch, and dinner? If you did, you still wouldn't be starving, but you sure would be hungry.

One day, there were lots of hungry people gathered around Jesus. Jesus tried to get away from the crowd for a few hours so he and his disciples could rest and grab a bite to eat. They took a boat to the other side of the lake to get a break. But the people just followed them on land, so when Jesus and the twelve landed onshore, they were surrounded. But Jesus—being so compassionate—wanted to care for the people. He did so by teaching them and providing food for them.

Regarding the food, however, there was a minor problem. Well, major problem! There wasn't any. Or, there wasn't much. As the sun was setting, Jesus

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turned to his disciples and said, “Give them something to eat” (Mark 6:37). They looked for leftovers. There weren’t any. Then, they questioned Jesus, “That makes no sense. We can’t feed all these people. It would cost us thousands of dollars.” There were five thousand men there, plus lots of women and children. It would be like feeding a crowd in a huge basketball stadium. Jesus had an idea. He asked his disciples, “How many loaves do you have?” (6:38). They had none, but as they asked around, Andrew found a boy who was willing to share his five loaves and two fish. “What good are these two fish burgers?” someone might have asked. “Such a small amount of food can’t possibly feed this huge crowd.” Jesus had another idea. He took the bread and fish, said a prayer, and then something amazing happened. As the disciples started to feed the people, the five loaves and two fish turned into ten, then the ten into thousands. There was so much food that everyone ate and was totally stuffed. There were even twelve baskets of bread left—twelve, like the number of apostles and the tribes of Israel. The people were amazed and thought, “Maybe Jesus is the prophet and king we have been waiting for” (see John 6:14, 15). Maybe he is that and more!

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Show how the story points to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher. {5 minutes}

What do we need more than food? That’s a tough question because we all know we need food to live. When Satan tempted Jesus, he said, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread” (Matt. 4:3). That wouldn’t be a temptation if Jesus just ate from the all-you-can-eat fish and bread buffet near the Sea of Galilee. But that was not the case. He’d had no food for forty days. He was starving. Really starving! And because of that, the Snake Crusher’s answer to the serpent was surprising. He said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). Another time in Jesus’s ministry (actually right after he fed these five thousand), he said something just as surprising. He said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:35). Wow, what a claim! Wow, what a wonderful promise. What do you think? Do you believe in Jesus? Have you come to him for everything you need, even eternal life?

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3

Engage

DISCUSS THE STORY

Discuss the story in smaller groups. {10 minutes}

1. **QUESTION:** What's the longest you've ever gone without eating? When you're really hungry and tired, how do you act toward other people? How did tired and hungry Jesus act when the crowd surrounded him and the disciples?

   TAKEAWAY: Jesus is compassionate and cares for our needs.

Memory Verse

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

JOHN 6:35

2. **QUESTION:** Where have we seen God provide food in the Bible? How much food would it take to satisfy five thousand men, plus women and children? How much food was Jesus given to feed that many people? And what was he able to do with it that no one else could? Why?

   TAKEAWAY: Jesus, the promised King, provides food that satisfies.

3. **QUESTION:** How did Satan tempt Jesus when he was starving? What did Jesus tell Satan was more important than food? What do you and I need more than food? If Jesus is the bread of life, what should we do to be satisfied by him?

   TAKEAWAY: Jesus is the bread of life and anyone who comes to him and believes in him will be satisfied.

ACTIVITIES

Download coloring pages and activity pages from TheBiggestStory.com, or choose from the following activity suggestions. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Fishing for Food

Supply List: dowel rods, string, magnets, scissors, paper clips, cardstock, paper lunch bags

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make "fishing poles" by tying a string with a magnet to the end of a dowel rod (one per team). On cardstock, print and cut out pictures of five loaves and two fish (one set per team). Attach a paper clip to each picture.

Divide children into teams and give each team a paper lunch bag. Across the room, set fishing poles and the sets of fish and loaves. On "Go" the first person

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on each team runs down, grabs a fishing pole, "catches" one item, takes it off the fishing pole, and runs back to drop it into the team's bag. The next child repeats the process. Play continues until a team has five loaves and two fish in their bag, winning the game. Remind children that Jesus multiplied one boy's food to feed thousands.

Option 2: Fishy Relay

Supply List: large bowl, spoons (one per team), goldfish crackers, bowls (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Fill a large bowl with goldfish crackers and place it in the center of the room. Divide children into teams. Give each team a spoon and a bowl. On "Go!" the first person on each team takes the team's spoon, runs to the large bowl, scoops out some goldfish, and carefully returns to his team to drop the goldfish into the team's bowl. Any crackers that fall off must be left on the floor. The spoon is then passed to the next person in line, who repeats the process. Play continues until all goldfish are gone from the large bowl. The team with the most goldfish in their bowl wins.

3rd–5th

Option 1: Lunch Bag Relay

Supply List: paper, scissors, clothespins, tape, chairs (one per team), paper lunch bag (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print and cut out pictures of five loaves and two fish (one set per team). Tape each picture to a clothespin.

Divide children into equal-sized teams and give each team a set of fish and loaves clothespins. Next to each team, set an open paper lunch bag on the floor next to a chair. On "Go!" the first child on each team kneels on the team's chair and drops one clothespin from eye-level into the team's bag. The child must drop all seven clothespins into the bag successfully before tagging the next player. If she misses, her teammates hand her the clothespin to try again. Play continues until all children on one team successfully complete the challenge, winning the game.

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Option 2: Fishy Relay

Supply List: large bowl, spoons (one per team), goldfish crackers, bowls (one per team)

Before Class: Gather supplies.

Fill a large bowl with goldfish crackers and place it in the center of the room. Divide children into teams. Give each team a spoon and a bowl. On "Go!" the first person on each team takes the team's spoon, runs to the large bowl, scoops out some goldfish, and carefully returns to their team to drop the goldfish into the team's bowl. Any crackers that fall off must be left on the floor. The spoon is then passed to the next person in line, who repeats the process. Play continues until all goldfish are gone from the large bowl. The team with the most goldfish in their bowl wins.

CRAFTS

Choose from the following craft suggestions depending on time, age ranges, and group size. {10–15 minutes}

K–2nd

Option 1: Beaded Fish

Supply List: pipe cleaners, beads

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make a sample craft.

Set supplies on tables. Have each child choose a pipe cleaner. Have children thread 24 beads onto the pipe cleaner. Have children fold the pipe cleaner in half and twist the ends together at the end of the beads to form a fish shape.

Option 2: Torn Paper Picture

Supply List: paper, construction paper, glue sticks

Before Class: Gather supplies. Make copies of a paper with five loaves, two fish, and the Memory Verse on it (one per child). Make a sample craft.

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Set construction paper and glue sticks on tables. Give each child a printed paper. Have children tear the construction paper into small pieces and glue them onto the pictures of loaves and fish. Remind children that Jesus multiplied one boy's food to feed thousands.

3rd–5th

Option 1: God Provides Mobile

Supply List: cardstock, scissors, yarn, clear tape, crayons

Before Class: Gather supplies. On cardstock, print pictures of five loaves and two fish (one per child). On cardstock, print copies of the Big Truth and cut them out in strips. Cut varying lengths of yarn (seven pieces per child). Make a sample craft.

Set tape, scissors, crayons, and cut yarn on tables. Give each child a fish and loaves paper and a Big Truth strip. Have children tape the ends of the Big Truth strip together to form a circle. Have children color and cut out the five loaves and two fish, then tape each one to the end of a piece of yarn. Attach the yarn pieces to the Big Truth circle to make a mobile. Add a piece of yarn to the top for hanging.

Option 2: Jesus Provides Basket

Supply List: paper, paper lunch bag, colored pencils, glue sticks, scissors

Before Class: Gather supplies. Print a paper with five loaves and two fish. Make a sample craft.

Give each child a printed paper and a paper lunch bag. Set remaining supplies on tables. Children should cut the bag so it stands about 6 inches high, then color it to resemble a basket. Write the verse "And they all ate and were satisfied" (Mark 6:42) on the basket. Have children use the part of the bag they cut off to make a handle and then attach it to the top of the open basket. Have them color and cut out the five loaves and two fish and place them in their baskets.

Visit TheBiggestStory.com for downloadable coloring pages, activity pages, and craft templates for this lesson.

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