



THE
KING
OF
KINGS

**MIRACLES
OF JESUS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SESSION #4**

**JESUS FEEDS
THE 5,000**

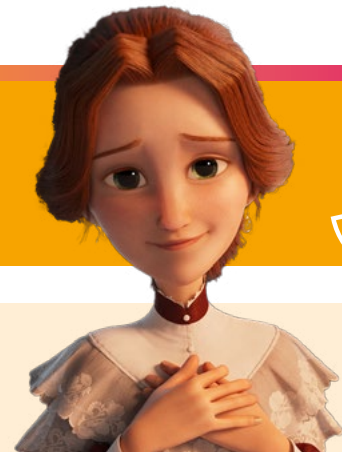
**JESUS' POWER
...TO PROVIDE**



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SESSION #4

JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

JOHN 6:1–14, MATTHEW 14:13–21,
MARK 6:30–44, LUKE 9:12–17

ICEBREAKER

'FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH' RELAY

For this game, you'll need the 'Loaves and Fishes' printouts (see the end of Session 4) and a basket or similar container for each team. Print enough sheets so there are plenty of paper loaves and fish to hide around the room. Divide the children into teams. Each team must find and collect exactly five loaves and two fish, sending one child at a time to retrieve an item and place it in their team's basket before the next player goes. The first team to collect all seven correct items wins! (Save the loaves and fishes for the craft later on.)

The King of Kings is very faithful to Scripture, sometimes incorporating details from multiple gospels in its retelling of different events and miracles. Make sure the children know that just because some things in the clip might be slightly different than the passage, it doesn't necessarily mean they 'did it wrong'. Rather, each gospel gives us different details about the same events—just like fans seeing different angles of the same goal in a football match—and *The King of Kings* wanted to incorporate many of these details. If you have a mature group, you could read from multiple accounts, as listed in the key scriptures section above.

JOHN 6:1–14

Some time after this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. It is also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd of people followed him. They had seen the signs he had done by healing sick people. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside. There he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, 'Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?' He asked this only to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do. 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!'

Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He said, '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?' Jesus said, 'Have the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. About 5,000 men were there. Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. 'Gather the leftover pieces,' he said. 'Don't waste anything.' So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten. The people saw the sign that Jesus did. Then they began to say, 'This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world.' But Jesus knew that they planned to come and force him to be their king. So he went away again to a mountain by himself. ➔

READ



WATCH

Watch the clip of *The King of Kings* and see if you notice any differences from what we read. (Remember, some of these differences are because the gospel writers give different details.) If you have a very keen group, you can hand out papers for the children to make notes on what they notice in the clip.

You can use the following script, or read the Scripture again, inviting the children to imagine what they see, feel, smell and hear throughout. Read slowly, pausing after each question to allow the kids to imagine themselves in the scene. The imagining can be done in quiet, or you can take responses as you go.

If you have children for whom sitting still is challenging, consider handing out a fidget toy or having them draw the scene while you read the following lines:

“ *Now I want you to imagine that you are there, just like the little boy Walter imagines himself watching Jesus do this miracle. Jesus can use our imagination to help us understand the story better. So let's pray, Holy Spirit, please help us to really see what it was like to be there with you. Now everyone, close your eyes, fold your hands in your lap and take a deep breath...*

You're walking with a huge crowd of people. Everyone is following Jesus. What can you see around you? Do you see hills, grass, maybe the sparkly water of a big lake nearby? Can you feel the warm sun on your skin? What do you hear? Sandals crunching on the path, people talking, babies crying, and Jesus teaching.

You sit down on the grass. What does the grass feel like under you? Are you hungry? What does your tummy feel like when it's empty? You look around—so many people! Thousands and thousands. You can hear Jesus say, 'Let's feed them.' The disciples look worried. You look down at your hands, you're carrying something. What does the basket look like? Inside are five small loaves of bread and two little fish. What do they smell like? Crusty bread? Salty fish? Your tummy rumbles. But you offer your food to one of the disciples—what do they say to you?

Jesus takes the food, gives thanks, and begins to hand it out. How do people react? Do they look surprised? Excited? What sounds do you hear? Laughter? Talking? The rustle of food being passed around?

You take a piece of bread. What does it feel like in your hands? What does it taste like when you take a bite? Look at Jesus. What does his face look like? How do you feel in your heart?

What did everyone imagine? Have a time of open sharing where the children describe what they imagined. Be sure to highlight whether this time of imagining gave them any insights or new ideas about the Bible story.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Have you ever gotten distracted at church or school because your tummy was hungry? Or because you were sleepy? Sometimes how we are feeling in our body makes it hard for our brains to pay attention! →

IMAGINE

DISCUSSION



DISCUSSION CONT.

Lots of people were following Jesus because they had seen him do amazing things. In one of the gospels, it says that the people were like sheep without a shepherd. That means they were lost, searching for someone to lead them, and they were hungry to hear more from Jesus. But it was late in the day and their tummies were hungry too! When Jesus provided food for all of them, he showed that he cares about our needs—even when it's something as simple as being hungry.

But Jesus didn't just feed their tummies. Later in the same chapter, Jesus says something interesting: 'I am the Bread of Life.' He can provide for even the deepest needs and hungers of our hearts.

So when we feel worried, or when we feel like we don't have enough, we can remember that Jesus always gives us more than enough, because he gives us himself. **Jesus has the power to provide.**

If the children are familiar with the cross, you could talk about how he provided for our greatest need when he died—he gave himself so that our sin could be forgiven. If you have covered the miracle of the paralysed man, you could remind the children that Jesus has the power to forgive sin.

RISK IT FOR A BISCUIT!

For this quiz, children earn a biscuit for a correct answer. They can 'risk it' for a second question to win another—if they get it wrong, they lose both! Limit each child to two biscuits, and offer half a biscuit for wrong answers to ease any disappointment. Make sure you have enough biscuits before you begin.

Q: Why were so many people following Jesus?

A: Because they saw him doing miracles and healing people.

Q: Where did Jesus go with his disciples in this story?

A: Up a mountainside to sit down.

Q: What problem did the disciples see?

A: There were lots of people, and no food for them.

Q: How much would it have cost to buy enough food for all the people?

A: Half a year's wages

Q: What did the boy give to help?

A: Five loaves of bread and two fish.

Q: What did Jesus do before giving out the food?

A: He gave thanks to God.

Q: How much food was left over after everyone ate?

A: Twelve baskets of leftovers.

Q: What does this story show us about Jesus?

A: That he can provide for us and cares about what we need. →

QUIZ



CRAFT

REFLECTION

Before class, cut out a large bowl or basket shape from paper or cardboard. Then, using the fish and loaves gathered during the icebreaker, have the children write one thing they want to ask Jesus for on the back of at least one fish or loaf (they can do more if they like). Have them colour the other side, then tape or glue their fish and loaves to the bowl or basket. In your final prayer, commit all of these requests to God, knowing that he cares about all our needs and is able to provide!

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you we could come today and learn more about who you are. Help us to remember that you see us and you know what we need. We ask for all the things the children wrote down today, and even the things they didn't ask for. Thank you for looking after us for giving yourself to satisfy our greatest need, Amen.



UP NEXT...

SESSION #5: JESUS WALKS ON WATER

