Jesus Feeds the 5,000

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus takes care of me.
Bible passage: John 6:1–14. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "But my God shall supply all your need" *Philippians 4:19 (KJV)*. The old word **supply** means give.
You need: a Bible, 5 paper loaves and 2 paper fish, a small basket or lunch bag, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at John 6. Hide the 5 paper loaves and 2 paper fish around the room.

1. Opening game: Find the Lunch (5 minutes)

Kids hunt for the hidden paper loaves and fish and bring them to the basket. Count them together as they go in: "One, two, three, four, five loaves! One, two fish!" Say: "This is a very small lunch. Today we will hear a true story about what Jesus did with a small lunch like this."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Lots and lots of people followed Jesus (John 6:2). *(March in place.)*
Jesus sat down on a mountain with His friends (6:3). *(Sit down.)*
The people were hungry. *(Rub your tummy.)*
Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy bread?" (6:5). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*
Andrew found a boy with a little lunch (6:8–9). *(Hold up the basket.)*
Five loaves of bread and two little fish (6:9). *(Hold up five fingers, then two.)*
Say it with me: "Five loaves and two fish!"
Jesus said, "Make the men sit down." Everyone sat on the grass (6:10). *(Sit down again.)*
Jesus took the bread and thanked God (6:11). *(Fold your hands.)*
Jesus gave out the bread and the fish. Everyone ate and ate (6:11). *(Pretend to eat.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus takes care of me!"
Everyone was full. Jesus said, "Pick up the leftovers" (6:12). *(Pretend to pick up crumbs.)*
They filled twelve baskets (6:13)! *(Count to twelve on your fingers.)*
Say it with me: "God gives me what I need!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who had the little lunch? *(A boy, John 6:9)*
2. What did Jesus do before the people ate? *(He thanked God, 6:11)*
3. Was there enough food for everyone? *(Yes! Everyone ate as much as they wanted, and there were twelve baskets left over, 6:11–13)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'But my God shall supply all your need.' Supply means give. God gives us what we need." Teach the motion: cup both hands like a bowl, then lift them up to God. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Philippians 4:19" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Lunch Basket (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a basket. Then they draw five loaves and two fish in it, or color them. While they draw, ask: "How many loaves? How many fish? Who did Jesus thank?" For a craft, use the easy level of the Jesus Feeds the 5,000 craft at vbshq.com/crafts/feeding-the-5000-craft.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for my food.
Thank You for taking care of me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let a child hold the basket. If they get wiggly, do the counting and eating motions again.

If a child asks how Jesus did it: say, "It was a miracle. Only God can do that (John 6:14). Jesus can make a little bit into a lot."

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