

Bible Point

Jesus can do anything.

Bible Verse

“With God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- discover that Jesus has power over everything,
 - see that Jesus takes care of our needs,
 - teach Pockets about how Jesus fed the 5,000, and
 - ask Jesus to help them with their problems.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus feeds 5,000 people.

**John
6:1-15**



With the exception of Jesus’ resurrection, this miracle is the only one reported by the writers of all four Gospels. Each writer gives a slightly different perspective on what happened that day, but all four agree on the essentials.

This miracle is dramatic enough if you think about the fish being served as large bass- or trout-sized fish. However, the fish were likely small sardines! And the loaves were small loaves of barley bread, the type most often consumed by the less fortunate. Hardly fare for a feast!

In addition, we talk of the feeding of the 5,000, but we seldom remember that the 5,000 mentioned were just the men (see John 6:10). No doubt women and children were present as well. Jesus likely fed more than 10,000 people with those five barley loaves and two sardines!

If you think about the amount of money Philip estimated it would cost to buy food for this crowd (about eight months’ wages), the miracle is more dramatic still!

A final witness to the amazing nature of this miracle was the response of the people. They were ready to make Jesus, the miracle worker, their king!

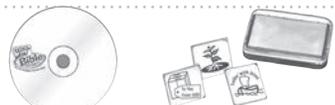
Prayer

- Read John 6:25-29.
- What were the people who followed Jesus really wanting?
- How are we sometimes like those people?
- Pray: God, thank you for the miracle-working power you displayed in Jesus. Thank you for the miracles you’ve worked in my life, such as...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- 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.	"Perfect Present Name Tags" (p. 22), markers, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Basket Weave —Weave a colorful basket.	Laundry basket, crepe paper, scissors	
	Option 2: Fishy Treats —Make delicious snacks to share.	Bread, plastic knives, softened butter, cereal flakes, heart cookie cutter, raisins, baby wipes, paper plates	
	Option 3: Fishaloons —Use balloons to design whimsical fish.	Balloons, permanent markers, crepe paper, tape, scissors, basket from Option 1	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Tear tortillas, and learn that Jesus can do anything.	Bible, flour tortillas, paper towels, baby wipes	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Count along as they learn from John 6:1-15 how Jesus fed more than 5,000 people.		
	Do the Bible Story —Play a game and celebrate God's goodness.	Fishaloons from Option 3, basket from Option 1, launchers from Lesson 6	
	Feeding Friends —Share fishy treats with Pockets, and teach her that Jesus can do anything.	Paper, tape, fishy treats from Option 2	
	Picnic Pals —Enjoy a picnic, and affirm their friends.	CD player, fishy treats from Option 2, basket from Option 1, baby wipes, napkins	

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

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Perfect Present Name Tags” (p. 22), markers, safety pins or tape

- Bend 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 how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “Did giving your fears to Jesus help you last week? How?” and “Who can make miracles happen?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus can do anything.**
- Hand out the present name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach name tags to their clothing. If any of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have children make new name tags using the photocopyable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



◀ BIBLE POINT



You may need to fold the strips of crepe paper in half so they’ll go through the open squares of the basket easily. Have children fold the strips, and tell them to work gently with the paper to avoid tears.

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 to direct their conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What does it feel like to be hungry?” or “What’s the best food you can think of?”

■ Option 1: Basket Weave

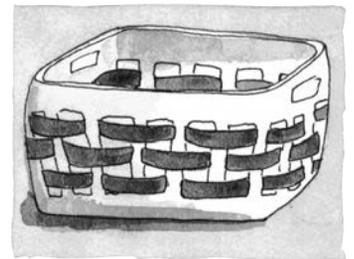
SUPPLIES: laundry basket, crepe paper, scissors

Before this activity, cut a roll of colorful crepe paper into 15-inch strips.

Set the crepe paper strips and a plastic laundry basket on the floor. Have children work together to “weave” a colorful basket from the crepe paper.

As they work, ask children questions such as “If this were a picnic basket, what would you carry in it?” and “Why is it important to eat healthful things?” Tell children that today they’ll hear a story about a very, very large picnic with Jesus.

After the children finish the basket, set it aside to use later. If you don’t choose this activity, bring a basket to use later in the lesson.

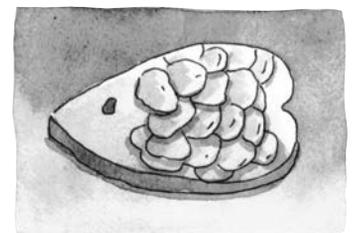


■ Option 2: Fishy Treats

SUPPLIES: bread, plastic knives, softened butter or margarine, cereal flakes, heart cookie cutter, raisins, baby wipes, paper plates

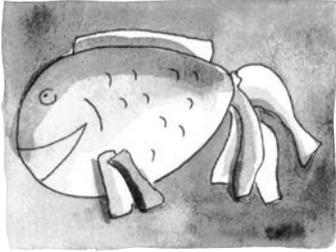
Set up an assembly line to make delicious treats to share. Place bread, plastic knives, softened butter or margarine, cereal flakes, raisins, and a heart-shaped cookie cutter on a table.

Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Allow children to choose if they’d like to be Cutters, Spreaders, Scalers, or Eyeballers. Have the Cutters use the cookie cutter to cut bread into heart shapes. (If you turn the heart sideways,




teacher tips

Have children make enough fishy treats for each child in the class to have one. If not everyone chooses to do the “Fishy Treats” activity, ask willing children to make extra treats to share. You’ll be using these snacks later in the lesson.



BIBLE POINT

WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—

Be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons and dispose of them immediately. Balloons may contain latex.


teacher tips

If you don’t choose Option 3, you’ll need to blow up balloons before class for children to use later in the lesson.

it’ll make a fun fish shape!) The Spreaders spread butter on the fish cutout. The Scalers add cereal-flake “scales” by sticking the flakes onto the butter. Then the Eyeballers add raisins for eyes. Set the treats on paper plates for later in the lesson.

As they work, ask children questions such as “Do you think we could make enough fish treats to serve everyone in our church?” Tell children they’ll hear a story today about how Jesus fed 5,000 people.

If you don’t choose this option, be sure to have a snack, such as fish-shaped crackers, for the Closing activity.

■ Option 3: Fishaloons

SUPPLIES: balloons, permanent markers, crepe paper, tape, scissors, basket from Option 1

Before class, inflate and tie off a 9-inch balloon for each child.

Place crepe paper, tape, permanent markers, scissors, and the balloons on a table. Tell children they’re going to use balloons to make fun fish called “fishaloons.” Have children use permanent markers to draw faces or other details on their balloons. Then have each child cut six or seven strips of crepe paper and tape them on the fish as fins and tails. Encourage children to make a lot of fishaloons. Tell them they’ll be using the fishaloons in a game later, and they’ll need a whole oceanful!

As children work, ask them questions such as “How many fish would we have to catch to feed everyone in our church or in your school?” Point out that ► Jesus can do anything. He can even feed thousands of people.

When children have finished, have them place their fishaloons in the basket from the “Basket Weave” activity.

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

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



SING

**We will pick up our toys.
 We will pick up our toys.
 We will pick up our toys,
 And put them all away.**

**There’s [name] picking up toys.
 There’s [name] picking up toys.
 There’s [name] picking up toys,
 Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: Bible, flour tortillas, paper towels, baby wipes

Tell the children that you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Then sit with the children in a circle on the floor. Hold up a flour tortilla and ask:

- **How many people can we feed with one tortilla?** Let children guess.

Say: **I'll hand each person a tortilla and a paper towel. You'll have 30 seconds to see how many pieces you can tear your tortilla into.**

When 30 seconds are up, clap to get children's attention. When they're listening, say: **Count your tortilla pieces. Then report your number to the class.**

After each person reports to the class, ask:

- **Did you make enough pieces to feed everyone in church? in town? in the state?** (No!)

- **Can a few tortillas feed 5,000 people? Explain.** (No, the tortillas aren't big enough; no, we can't make the tortillas stretch that far.)

Say: **It seems impossible that a few small tortillas could feed 5,000 people, doesn't it? We can't do something that amazing. But the Bible tells us who can.** Read ▶ **Matthew 19:26b** aloud: **"With God everything is possible."**

Ask: • **Who can do amazing miracles?** (God; Jesus.)

Say: ▶ **Jesus can do anything!** Let's listen to an exciting Bible story about how Jesus fed 5,000 hungry people with only a little food. While you listen, you can eat your tortilla pieces.



◀ BIBLE VERSE

◀ BIBLE POINT



Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch strips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and stamp the *boat stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **John 6:1-15** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose someone to be the Bible person. The Bible person will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story. Each of you will get a chance to be the Bible person. Before I choose today's Bible person, let's sing our Bible song. As we sing, I'll hand out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, hand out the folded surprise cards.



At this stage in their spiritual development, 5- and 6-year-olds understand that God made them, trust that God loves them, and are beginning to develop a sense of conscience.



SING

Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the boat stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place, and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► Jesus can do anything.**

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn that Jesus gives us what we need. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "Thank you, Jesus, for giving me what I need."

Have a child pass around the basket or box. After your helper has collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and for all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► Jesus can do anything. In Jesus' name, amen.**



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

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■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Jesus' Miracles*. Fold back the *Bible Big Book* so children only see page 1.

Ask: • **Who can tell us about this picture?** (It's Jesus' first miracle; Jesus helped his friends by turning water into wine.)

Hold up the *Bible Big Book* so children see pages 2 and 3.

Ask: • **Can someone explain about this picture? How did the disciples feel?** (They were scared because they thought the storm would tip over their boat; they were afraid they'd drown.)

• **What miracle did Jesus perform to help the disciples?** (He calmed the sea and the wind; he changed the weather.)

Say: **Let's hear a story about another of Jesus' miracles. You can help me tell the story. When you hear a number mentioned, hold up that many fingers. When you hear the number 5,000, jump up and say, "That's a lot!" We'll practice a few times.**

Say the numbers 2 and 5, and have children hold up that many fingers. Then say the number 12, and show children how to flash all 10 fingers and then close their hands and flash 2 more. Then say the number 5,000, and have children jump up and call out, "That's a lot!" When children are familiar with the number signals, open the

Bible Big Book to page 5, and read the following story. Pause after each number for children to hold up their fingers. Read:

One day Jesus and his 12 (pause) disciples climbed a high hill. A great crowd of 5,000 people (pause) listened to Jesus teach about God. They were so excited to be with Jesus that they didn't even realize it was time for dinner. But Jesus knew.

Jesus asked one of his disciples, "Philip, where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"

Philip answered, "It would take a small fortune to feed them!"

Then a disciple named Andrew spotted a young boy in the crowd. The boy had some food, and he was willing to share it. Andrew told Jesus, "There's a young boy here with five (pause) barley loaves and two (pause) fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

Ask: • **Do you suppose the little boy was hungry?** (Yes, he had his food ready; not yet, because he was waiting until dinnertime.)

• **How do you think he felt when the disciples wanted his bread and fish?** (Worried he wouldn't get any; he was glad to give it to Jesus.)

(Turn the page to show pages 6 and 7. Continue to read.)

Jesus said, "Tell everyone to sit down. I'll give thanks to God for this bread and fish." After Jesus gave thanks, he fed the bread and fish to all those hungry people. Think of it! Jesus made five (pause) small loaves of bread and two (pause) small fish feed 5,000 (pause) people! Not one (pause) person went hungry.

Then Jesus told the 12 (pause) disciples to gather the leftovers into baskets. The disciples filled 12 (pause) more baskets with food.

What a feast they had! All because ► Jesus can do anything!

Keep the *Bible Big Book* open to pages 6 and 7 while you ask the following questions.

Ask: • **Why did Jesus feed all those people?** (He wanted to take care of them; he loved them.)

• **What was more important—listening to Jesus or eating food?** (Listening to Jesus; both are important.)

Say: **Jesus cares for our needs. When we need food, he provides food. When we need to learn, he provides teaching.**

Ask: • **How does Jesus take care of our need for food today?** (He helps us know how to grow food; he sends rain and sunshine for it to grow.)

• **How does Jesus give us teaching today?** (We can read the Bible; Jesus helps us learn at church.)

Say: **Jesus gives us so much love there's always enough to go around and even more left! Let's see if we can find the 12 baskets of leftover bread and fish in the story picture.** Have children take turns finding the disciples and baskets on pages 6 and 7 of the *Bible Big Book*.

Jesus cared for every person in that crowd of 5,000 people. He gave them teaching, and he gave them food. And he cares for us, too. We can trust Jesus to take care of all our needs all the time. Let's play a game to remind us that ► Jesus can do anything.




teacher tips

If you need to make new launchers, simply tape index cards to *chopsticks*. You'll use the launchers again in Lesson 9.



Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: fishaloons from Option 3, basket from Option 1, launchers from Lesson 6



Place the basket from Option 1 at one end of the room. Hand each child a fishaloon from Option 3.

Say: **We'll use our fishaloons to fill up the basket just as the disciples filled the baskets with leftover food. When I say "go," use a chopstick launcher to bop your fishaloon into the basket. As it drops in, shout out, ► "Jesus can do anything! He feeds me every day!"**

If you have more than 10 children in your class, do this activity as a relay. Form two teams, and give a *chopstick* launcher to the first person in each line. After all the fishaloons are in the basket, collect the *chopstick* launchers and ask:

• **Why do you think Jesus made so much food that it filled 12 baskets with leftovers?** (Because he wanted to be sure there was plenty; he didn't want the people to worry that they wouldn't have enough food.)



teacher tips

This lesson reminds us of the great opportunities we have to be the hands of Jesus. If you're aware of children in your class who experience hunger due to financial difficulties, gather with others to reach out to these children and their families and to provide nutrition for them.



Give each child a fishaloon. Say: **Jesus wants us to know we can rely on him for what we need every day. It's important to remember that because ► Jesus can do anything, we don't have to worry about anything. Let's pray to Jesus. Let's give him our worries. We can give Jesus our worries because he loves each of us and cares about us.**

Move around the room with the basket. As you approach each child, let the child say, "Jesus, I give you my worries" and place his or her fishaloon into the basket. When all the fishaloons have been collected, pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you that you love us and that you can do anything—even take away our worries. We love you. Amen.**

Say: **You know, I saw Pockets earlier, and she looked a little worried. Let's see if she's still troubled.**

Closing

Feeding Friends

SUPPLIES: paper, tape, fishy treats from Option 2

Before this activity, tape a small, blank piece of paper to Pockets' paw. Have children sit in a circle. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.





- **Teacher:** Hi, Pockets. You still look a little worried. What's wrong? And what's the paper for?
- **Pockets:** All my friends are coming over today.
- **Teacher:** That doesn't sound like anything to be worried about. That sounds like fun.
- **Pockets:** Oh, we'll have a lot of fun. But there's a problem.
- **Teacher:** What's the problem?
- **Pockets:** I don't know what to feed them. I know they'll be hungry. *(Waves paper.)* I was going to the grocery store, but I can't think of what to put on my list!
- **Teacher:** Pockets, we just listened to a story about how Jesus fed a lot of people with only a little food. Children, let's tell Pockets the Bible story. Maybe it will help her see that there's always a way to work out problems because ► Jesus can do anything. *(Allow children to share the Bible story with Pockets. Encourage them to point out to Pockets that Jesus always takes care of us, and we don't have to worry about what to eat or anything else.)*
- **Pockets:** Wow! ► Jesus can do anything, can't he? But I don't have bread and fish. Do you think he can still help me?
- **Teacher:** Jesus can always help. Children, what snack did we make earlier that Pockets could make for her friends? *(Have children get the plate of fishy treats and tell Pockets how they made them.)*
- **Pockets:** That's a great idea! Jesus helped me by giving me great friends like you. Now my problem is solved. I'm going to the grocery store right now. 'Bye!

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■ Picnic Pals

SUPPLIES: CD player, fishy treats from Option 2, basket from Option 1, baby wipes, napkins



Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink.

Say: **Pockets will have fun sharing with her friends. We can have fun sharing the fishy treats with our friends, too. We'll pretend we're on the hillside with Jesus and the disciples are eating bread and fish. Find a friend to share your picnic with.** Set the fishy treats (or another snack) in the basket from Option 1. Choose two children to carry the basket to the other children. Have each child choose a fishy treat and set it on a napkin.

Before we have our picnic, let's say a prayer thanking Jesus for giving us the food we need every day. Pray: **Dear God, we thank you that Jesus loves us and gives us what we need. We know that nothing is impossible for Jesus. Please help us trust him more every day. Thank you for also giving us friends who help us. In Jesus' name, amen.**



When you've finished with your picnic, say: **We'll end our time together by singing "Yes, He Can." When we get to the last word, give your friend a pat on the back so you'll both remember to trust Jesus to provide everything you need.**

Lead the children in singing "Yes, He Can" (track 10) with the CD to the tune of "London Bridge."



SING

Jesus can do anything! (*Hop forward; then hop backward.*)

Yes, he can! Clap your hands! (*Clap three times.*)

Jesus can do anything! (*Hop forward; then hop backward.*)

Yes, Jesus can! (*Twirl around and clap.*)

Jesus can do miracles! (*Hop forward; then hop backward.*)

Yes, he can! Clap your hands! (*Clap three times.*)

Jesus can do miracles! (*Hop forward; then hop backward.*)

Yes, Jesus can! (*Twirl around and clap.*)

After you've finished singing and children have affirmed each other, let them each choose a fishaloon to take home. Collect name tags for next week's use, and remind children to take home other crafts they made today also.



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 your 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: How Much Is 5,000?**

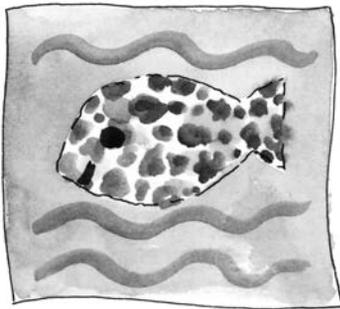
You'll need a box of 1,000 toothpicks for this counting activity. Form pairs, and hand each pair a bunch of toothpicks. Tell each pair to make five piles of 20 toothpicks each.

After children have made their piles, say: **Each pair of you has just counted out 100 toothpicks. Let's count by hundreds to see how many toothpicks our class has. When I point to your group, stand up and call out the next hundred.** Guide children in counting by hundreds.

When each group has been counted, say: **It might seem like we have lots of toothpicks here, but we're way short of 5,000. Think about how many toothpicks we have. Now, think about how many people Jesus fed with such a little bit of food! Isn't it amazing that ► *Jesus can do anything?***

Let children play pick-up sticks with their toothpicks.

■ **Make to Take: Spongy Fish**



For this art activity, you'll need sponges cut into fish shapes, blue construction paper, white tempera paint, and markers or crayons. Pour the white paint onto a plate or plastic-foam meat tray.

Cover your work area with newspaper. Hand each child a sheet of construction paper. Place the paint in the center of the table, and set the sponge shapes by the paint.

Have children make fish by lightly dipping the sponges into the paint and stamping them on the blue construction paper. When the paint is dry, let children use markers or crayons to add details such as eyes, fins, gills, mouths, and air bubbles to their pictures.

■ **Treat to Eat: Loaves and Fish**

You'll need wax paper and a chilled roll of refrigerator sugar-cookie dough. Have children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Divide the cookie dough between the children. Let each child make a small loaf of bread and a small fish. Remind children that Jesus fed 5,000 people with bread and fish. Ask them how many loaves of bread and fish he used to feed the people. Emphasize what a wonderful miracle it is that ► *Jesus can do anything.* After children have shaped the loaves and fish, have a helper bake the dough. After the cookies have cooled, let children eat their bread and fish shapes.



■ **Story Picture: Jesus Feeds 5,000 People**

Give each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out crayons or markers, brown construction paper, white glue, and toothpicks. Have children glue toothpicks to the baskets and brown construction paper bits to the bread. Let them use markers or crayons to further personalize the picture. As children work, ask them to tell the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Today I learned...

Lesson 8

Jesus can
do anything.

Today your child learned that Jesus can do anything. Children learned that Jesus fed 5,000 people with bread and fish. They talked about how Jesus gives them what they need.

Verse to Learn

"With God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26b).

Ask Me...

- How did Jesus feed the crowd of 5,000 people?
- What does Jesus give you that you need?
- How can we help Jesus give to others?

Family Fun

- Plan a family picnic on a grassy hillside. Ask your child to help you make a plate of fishy treats like he or she enjoyed in class. Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut "fish" from bread. Spread the fish with softened butter or margarine. Add cereal-flake "scales" and raisins for eyes. Or bring along fish-shaped crackers. As you enjoy your meal, encourage your child to tell you the story of how Jesus fed the 5,000 people.

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People (John 6:1-15)

