



Feeding the Five Thousand

John 6: 1-14

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Safety Scissors
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Crayons or Markers
- ✓ Copies of craft sheets, one copy per student
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet, one copy per student
- ✓ Copies of Lesson Overview, one copy per student



Feeding the Five Thousand

Objective of Lesson

Our Lord Jesus is teaching us that He is the Bread of Life and uses His chosen gospel preachers to distribute that truth to His people! That which is not possible with mere men, is always possible with the Son of God!

Scripture Reference

(John 6:1-14) "After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. (2) And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. (3) And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. (4) And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. (5) When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? (6) And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. (7) Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. (8) One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, (9) There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? (10) And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. (11) And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. (12) When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that

remain, that nothing be lost. (13) Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. (14) Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world."

Lesson Instructions

1. Today we are going to talk about a story referred to in the Bible as a miracle. Have you ever heard the word "miracle"? Do you know what that means? It means something occurs that could not be possible with men and women.
2. Can you think of some things that men and women cannot do? Can you take water and turn it into fruit juice or wine? NO! If you are thirsty, can you go out in the yard and hit a rock and make water come out of it? NO! If someone dies, can you bring them back to life? NO! We know we don't have the ability to make those things happen. If those things do happen, they would be miracles! Who CAN do miracles? Jesus Christ the Son of God can do miracles!
3. In this story the Lord Jesus has been traveling from city to city teaching people about Himself, and performing great miracles. These miracles were things that men and women cannot do themselves. People were fascinated by His abilities! They followed Him to a large body of water called the Sea of Galilee. The Bible tells us they were not really interested in what He had to say, they just wanted to see more miracles. These people loved excitement, and loved to be entertained by the Lord's miracles, but they totally failed to understand what the Lord was teaching. They did not trust Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of poor needy sinners.
4. Our Lord withdrew Himself from the crowd that followed Him across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus Christ had become tired with their unbelief and lack of understanding, so He took his disciples (His chosen followers) up into a

quiet spot on a mountain top. The crowd of people kept following Him.

5. What happens next is recorded in the Bible to teach us how the Lord Jesus Christ saves His people from their sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ was not just performing these miracles for entertainment but to teach us about Himself, why He came into the world, and what He came to do!
6. Our Lord saw the people continuing to follow Him and He turned to Philip, one of His disciples (chosen followers), and asked him, "Where are we to buy bread, so that all these people may eat?" The Bible tells us that He was not asking this question to find out really where to buy bread but to teach us something.
7. Philip was a man like you and me. He looked at the crowd, saw the need, and began to calculate in his head what it would take to feed all those people! "We don't have enough money to buy a little snack for this many people, let alone to feed them! Two hundred pennyworth of bread would only give each one a "little" to eat." What a sad portrait of us! Instead of looking to the Lord God to achieve it, he looked to himself and what he could do. That which is not possible with men is possible with the Son of God!
8. Another of the Lord's chosen followers heard this and said, "There is a boy here with five pieces of bread and two little fish, but we can't feed all these people with that!" There is just one problem with their calculations, they were calculating without Christ! (Psalms 78:19-22) — "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14) All his disciples had already forgotten the miracles the Lord Jesus Christ could perform!
9. Our Lord commanded that the crowd of people stop what they were doing and sit down in an orderly manner in the grass. The Lord God is teaching us that all our activities we do to be accepted of God must stop or we will not be fed the "Bread of Life." (Ps 23:2) All five thousand people sat down and waited on the Lord to see what He would do next.
10. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, gave thanks unto His Father in heaven for what He had provided; then He gave each one of His disciples

(His chosen followers) some bread and told THEM to hand out the bread He gave to the people. God's gifts grow in the hands of those who use them for the benefit of others, especially for the benefit of His people, (NOTE: This is a picture of a pastor's work - The preacher's work is to receive the bread of life which his Master provides, and to distribute it to the souls among whom he labors. He cannot make men value the bread, or receive it. He cannot make the bread effectual, beneficial and saving. He cannot cause the bread to meet any need, or compel anyone to eat it. That is God's work, not the preacher's. Preachers are not responsible for those things. The whole work of the gospel ministry is the faithful distribution of the Bread of Life). Do you think five loaves were enough to feed five thousand people? That which is not possible with mere men, is always possible with the Son of God! Did the disciples make enough bread appear? No! It was our Savior's almighty power that provided an unfailing supply of food.

11. The Spirit of God tells us, "They were filled." All those thousands of people, when fed by the miraculous power and grace of the Son of God, were filled. When the Lord Jesus feeds us, he fills us with (bread of life) grace, and satisfies our souls with fatness! (Colossians 2:9-10)
12. When they all had enough, He said to His disciples, "Gather up now the fragments (the broken pieces that are left over), so that nothing may be lost and wasted." The disciples gathered the left over fragments and they filled up twelve baskets full of bread! How did the Son of God do this? It was a miracle! (NOTE: He required this gathering up of the fragments to teach us that we must take great care not to lose the bounties of His gospel by our neglect.) Hebrews 2:1-4
13. When the crowd of people saw the miracle that He had just performed they said, "Surely there is no doubt that this is the Son of God who has come into the world!" - five loaves of bread and two fish fed five thousand very hungry people! Here something was created which had no prior existence!
14. What is our Lord Jesus Christ teaching us here? Is this story in the Bible

recorded just for our entertainment? NO! Our Lord Jesus is teaching us that He is the Bread of Life, and He uses His chosen gospel preachers to distribute that truth to His people! Who performed the miracle and made the small loaves and fishes feed five thousand? Was it the disciples? NO! Our Lord Jesus Christ did! Who provides all the needs of our bodies? Our Lord Jesus Christ does! If the Lord provides every need for our bodies, will He provide every need for the salvation of our souls too? (John 6:47-50) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. (48) I am that bread of life. (49) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. (50) This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die."

Lesson Activities

- Fishes and Loaves in Picnic Basket Craft
- Coloring Sheet
- Demonstration of Bread - Take a piece of bread and break it into small pieces. Now tell them to take it out into the crowd of people in the church and feed them all. Would this amount of bread feed many people? NO! Demonstrate to them visually the miracle that had to have been performed to make that food feed five thousand people.



Take Home Lesson Overview

Feeding the Five Thousand

Scripture Reference:

John 6: 1-14

Lesson Overview:

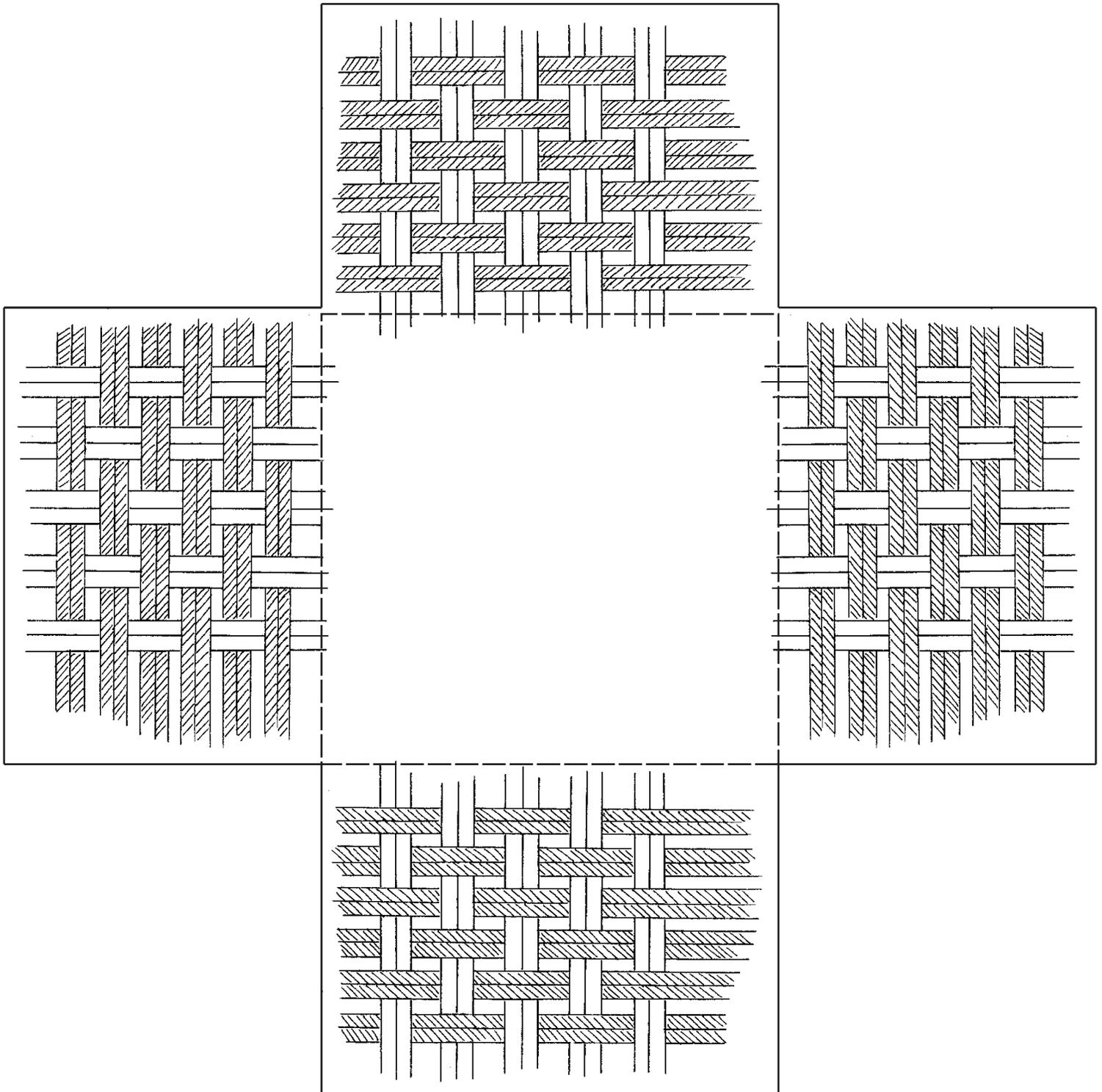
Our Lord Jesus is teaching us that He is the Bread of Life, and He uses His chosen gospel preachers to distribute that truth to His people! Who performed the miracle and made the small loaves and fishes feed five thousand? Was it the disciples? NO! Our Lord Jesus Christ did! Who provides all the needs of our bodies? Our Lord Jesus Christ does! If the Lord provides every need for our bodies, will He provide every need for the salvation of our souls too? YES! How do we know this? The Bible tells us so. (John 6:47-50) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. (48) I am that bread of life. (49) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. (50) This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die."

Feeding the Five Thousand
Coloring Sheet



Feeding the Five Thousand Craft (Page 1 of 2)

Have the student color the basket. Cut along the solid line. Fold along the dotted line.
Tape the flaps together to form a paper basket.



Feeding the Five Thousand Craft (Page 2 of 2)

Have the student color the five loaves and two fish. Cut along the solid line.
Place the fish and the loaves into the "paper basket"

