

# Preparing the Lesson

## Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

John 6:1–14

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Date of Use

### Key Point

In His love, God promises to care for all our physical and spiritual needs and gives us the greatest treasure: His Son and the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

### Law/Gospel

Like the disciples, my faith is weak, and I lack trust in God to give me all good things. **For the sake of His Son, Jesus, God promises to provide for all my needs and gives me the gift of faith to believe in Jesus as my Savior and receive eternal life through Him.**

### Context

John 6 begins with the feeding of the five thousand and ends with Jesus' statement, "I am the bread of life," and Peter's confession, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. . . . You are the Holy One of God." Peter's words are associated with the Lord's Supper. The three synoptic Gospel records of the account of the feeding of the five thousand speak of the time following the execution of John the Baptist and the Galilean beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

### Commentary

Millions go hungry, get sick, and experience enmity and death. Apart from the goodwill of God the Father and the love of Christ, we have no hope. Were we the captains of our own destinies, we would surely flounder upon the reefs. One day, we shall all depart this life.

God feeds the hungry, whether Jew or Gentile. God makes some kind of society, government, and conflict resolution possible in the face of overwhelming sin and self-interest. God loves us that much!

Yet God does not grant a general amnesty from sin apart from Jesus Christ. The gift of abundant earthly food is best understood as pointing to the bread of life, Christ, who fills your soul eternally. God steers all good things in your life that you might find Christ and help lead others to Him—not only as the bread giver of the here and now but also as the eternal living bread of heaven.

As Jesus' feeding miracles helped strengthen the individual faith of the disciples after the gruesome death of John the Baptist, so His daily feeding and strengthening of your faith will sustain you through all trouble. In Christ, you receive all the necessary physical and spiritual energy to run the race and keep your eyes on the goal of receiving the crown of eternal life.

**To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit [cph.org/podcast](http://cph.org/podcast) and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.**

## Lesson 4

# Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

John 6:1–14

### Connections

#### Bible Words

God . . . richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17

#### Faith Word

signs

#### Hymn

How Sweet the Name of Jesus

Sounds

(LSB 524; CD 2)

#### Catechism

Lord's Prayer: Fourth Petition

#### Liturgy

Lord's Prayer

## 1 Opening (10 minutes)

### Introducing Concepts

**To Prepare:** Post the attendance chart. Set out the offering basket and stickers (Student Pack).

Warmly greet the children as they arrive. Introduce yourself to any new students, and make sure that they are introduced to the other children. Invite them to put their offerings in the basket and post their attendance using stickers.

Group the children in pairs to talk about what makes a person rich. This discussion will prepare them to hear that God provides good things for us because of Jesus.

Write the following sentence starter on the board: A person is rich because . . .

**Say Together, think about an ending to this sentence: A person is rich because . . .**

After a brief time, ask the children to share their ideas. If possible, write their ideas on the board.

**Say In today's Bible story, we will find out how, because of Jesus, we are all rich.**

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
<b>Teacher Tools</b> Attendance chart CD	<b>Teacher Tools</b> Poster B Background B Storytelling Figures	<b>Student Pack</b> Craft Page 4 Stickers	<b>Teacher Tools</b> CD
<b>Student Pack</b> Stickers	<b>Student Pack</b> Lesson Leaflet 4 Glue stick	<b>Other Supplies</b> Activity Page 4 (TG) Lily puppet with bread Stapler	
<b>Other Supplies</b> Resource Page 1 (TG)			



## Rituals and Routines

**To Prepare:** If your children gather with others for the Opening, begin teaching with part 2 of this lesson. If you prefer to develop your own opening, a suggested outline follows. For an extended opening, see Resource Page 1 at the back of this book. Use it as a guide for yourself, or make copies for your students to use like a church bulletin and follow along.

Gathering Song: "We Are in God's House Today" (*SGL*, p. 84; CD 15) or "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (*LSB* 524; CD 2)

Invocation: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.** Make the sign of the cross.

Offering

Catechism: Fourth Petition

Prayers: Include specific requests.

Celebrations: Birthdays and Baptism birthdays

## 2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

### Introducing God's Word

**To Prepare:** To complete this section, use Poster B, a restickable glue stick (available from [cph.org](http://cph.org)), and the Faith Word *signs* cut from Poster B.

**Say** **Baseball players, coaches, and umpires use many different signs.**

**Coaches use signs to communicate with batters, pitchers, and runners.**

**Umpires use signs to signal their decisions. What signs do umpires use?** The children may know the signs for an out (clenched right fist and short hammering motion), time-out (raising both hands into the air and calling in a loud voice, "Time!"), or a strike (a right-hand movement that can vary). **When the umpire uses signs, he gives information to those who may not be able to hear his words.**

**Today's Bible story tells about Jesus' signs. Jesus' signs were miracles.**

**When people saw Jesus' miracles, they received information without words. They learned that Jesus was not like them. He had unusual powers.**

**The signs showed Jesus is God. In our Bible story, we will read about a miracle that tells us something about Jesus, God's Son.**

Ask one of the children to post the word *signs* on Poster B.

### Telling God's Word

**To Prepare:** Before class, prepare Storytelling Figures 4-1 through 4-7. Arrange the figures in the order you will use them. Use Background B and the glue stick.

Place your open Bible near you, and tell the children that today's Bible story is from the Book of John.

**Say** While Jesus was on one side of the Sea of Galilee (GAL ih lee), He saw a large crowd coming. Add 4-1. Jesus asked Philip, "Where are we going to buy bread for all these people?" Jesus did this to find out how Philip would answer Him. It was a kind of test.

Add 4-2 (Philip). Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii (de NAIR ee igh) would not buy enough bread for each of them to eat even a little." Philip knew that it would take someone more than six months to earn enough money to buy bread for all the people.

Add 4-3 (Andrew). Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was listening too. He said, "A boy here has five barley loaves of bread and two fish, but how can that help?" Place 4-4 (boy) beside 4-3. Add 4-6 (fish and bread).

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down on the grass." About five thousand men plus the women and children sat down. Add 4-5 (crowd). Put 4-6 (fish and bread) in Jesus' hands. Jesus took the loaves and the fish and gave thanks. He gave the people food. It was a miracle. Every person ate. The people ate until they were full.

When they were done, Jesus told the disciples, "Gather up the leftover bread. We don't want to waste anything."

The disciples filled twelve baskets with bread. Add 4-7 (basket with leftover bread).

When the people saw Jesus' miracle, they talked about this sign. They said, "This Jesus is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Sing the following lyrics to the melody of "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow."

**Sing** Jesus took bread and fish. He prayed.  
He fed five thousand guests that day.  
This little bit fed every guest;  
By God's Son, they were truly blessed.

Follow this stanza by singing "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (SGL, p. 38).

## Lesson Leaflet Review

Distribute Lesson Leaflet 4. After examining the cover art for this story, answer the questions. Then review today's Bible story with the activity provided. Directions are found on the Lesson Leaflet. Consider having children work as partners on the leaflet activity. Children can work together to read difficult words and take turns answering the riddles.

## Bible Words

God . . . richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17

**Say** When you came to class this morning, I asked you to think about an ending to this sentence: A person is rich because . . . Review the children's answers and direct them to the Bible Words. In our Bible Words, we find out who and what makes us rich. As you listen, think about the answer to the question: Are you rich? What does God provide for you?

Read the Bible Words with the children. Be sensitive to those in your class who may be economically disadvantaged. Emphasize the spiritual blessings we have through Christ, the value of which we can't even comprehend! God knows everything we need; we receive God's gifts for our enjoyment and with thanksgiving.

**Say** Jesus provided food for all the people in our Bible story to enjoy. Jesus thanked God for the bread and fish. Then, when everyone had eaten, His disciples gathered the leftovers.

**Jesus provides food and many other gifts for you to enjoy. God takes care of everything we need, including the greatest treasure of all: the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through Jesus! You can thank Him too.**

To help the children learn the Bible Words, review the cues in the Lesson Leaflet, and use the following actions with the words.

<b>Say</b>	<b>God . . .</b>	<i>(Point up.)</i>
	<b>richly provides</b>	<i>(Pretend to give something to someone else.)</i>
	<b>us</b>	<i>(Point to yourself and then to others.)</i>
	<b>with everything</b>	<i>(Put hands up and shake them.)</i>
	<b>to enjoy.</b>	

## 3 We Live (15 minutes)

### Growing through God's Word

**To Prepare:** For this activity, use Lily the puppet and bread—a slice for Lily's satchel and more to distribute to your students as a snack. Lily enters with a bulging satchel.

**Teacher:** Hi, Lily. What's in your satchel?

**Lily:** Oh, it's bread. I want to act out the Bible story. I'm putting my hungry dolls and stuffed animals on my quilt. Then I'll say a prayer and feed them all with this one piece of bread. *(Shows the bread in satchel.)* I have baskets, too, so my dolls can pick up the leftovers.

**Teacher:** Good listening, Lily. You can tell them that food is one of God's blessings. Everything we have comes from God.

**Lily:** Everything? Really? Everything?

**Teacher:** That's right. Because we are sinful, we don't deserve anything from God. In fact, we deserve instead to be punished for our sins. But because Jesus died and rose to pay for our sins, God gives all people—even those who don't believe in Him—many blessings. He gives us everything we need to live. He even gives us good leaders and good weather so that farmers can grow the grains we make into bread.

**Lily:** Wow! God is a kind and good giver!

**Teacher:** Yes, He is.

**Lily:** Now when I eat bread, I'm going to think more about all God's blessings.

### Key Point

In His love, God promises to care for all our physical and spiritual needs and gives us the greatest treasure: His Son and the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**Teacher:** We do that when we pray the Lord's Prayer. We pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Because of Jesus' miracle, the five thousand men, and also the women and children, realized that Jesus gave them bread through a miracle. When we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," God leads us through the miracle of faith to realize that He is the giver.

**Lily:** So, Jesus' miracles are for me too.

**Teacher:** That's right, Lily. God not only takes care of our needs here on earth, but because Jesus died and rose again, God also forgives our sins. He gives those who believe in Him salvation and eternal life. God takes care of our needs forever.

**Lily:** So we are rich now and forever. What good news! I'm going right now to tell my dolls and stuffed animals.

Lily leaves. If you have a snack, share it with the children.

Sing "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (SGL, p. 38) again and add the following stanzas.

**Sing Jesus took bread and fish. He prayed.  
He fed five thousand guests that day.  
This little bit fed every guest;  
By God's Son, they were truly blessed.  
Because of Jesus, God gives me  
All things that I will ever need.  
Jesus, who died and rose, has won  
Forgiveness, life, and salvation.**

## Craft Page

**To Prepare:** To complete this activity, you will need Craft Page 4, copies of Activity Page 4 (found at the end of this lesson), stickers, and a stapler.

The children will make a bread booklet to help them remember what is meant by the words "Give us this day our daily bread."

Each child needs Craft Page 4 and a copy of Activity Page 4.

- Cut apart the four bread slices on Craft Page 4 and the four slices on Activity Page 4.
- Assemble the pages in numerical order by placing the Craft Pages on the outside and the Activity Pages on the inside. Staple.
- Draw on the Activity Page bread pages after compiling the booklet.
- Add four cross stickers to the Activity Page bread pages.

*Note:* Craft Page 4 has numbers on both sides. Activity Page 4 has numbers only on the front.

As an extension, suggest a short "homework" assignment or do a simplified version in class. Have children each choose one of the examples of daily bread. They will need to find another person to record them saying "I'm rich!" while standing in front of that blessing (e.g., baptismal font, communion rail, dining room table, clothes closet, house, or family). Encourage them to be exuberant with their proclamation. Ask them to keep the recording to six seconds or less and post it on an appropriate social media option or send it to you so you can post it. As always, secure parental permission before posting something publicly, or limit access to those you allow to view it.

**Great Idea!**

## 4 Closing (5 minutes)



**To Prepare:** Use the CD. Set aside all the items your students need to take home.

Gather the children for the Closing. Following the same routine each week helps children transition from class time to dismissal.

**Say** This week, we talked about many kinds of bread that God gives us every day. He loves us and promises to care for us. And through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**Sing** “Thank You, Loving Father” (CD 13) or “The Lord’s Prayer” (CD 17)

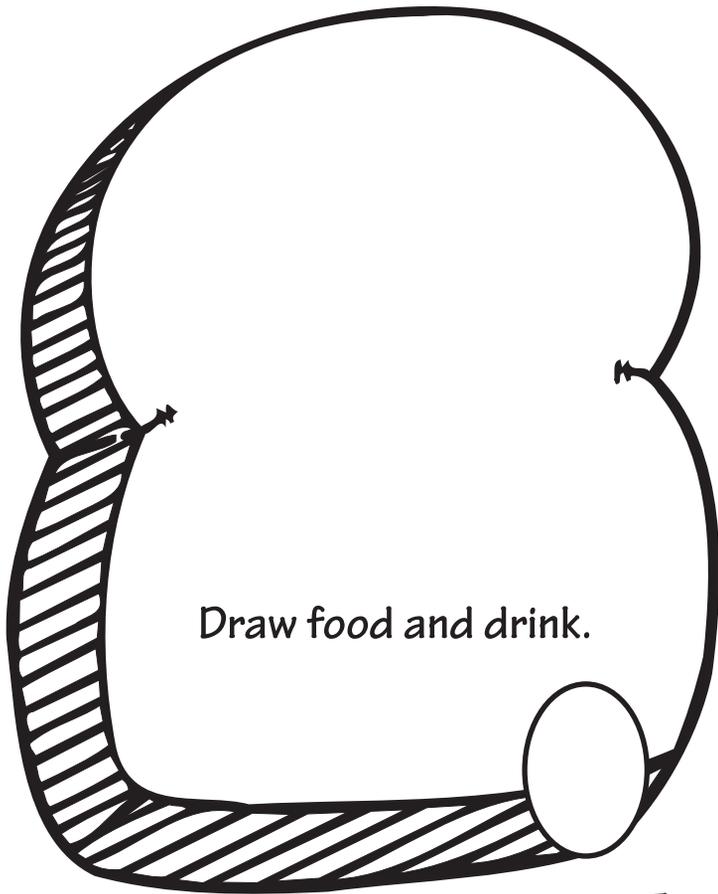
**Say** God . . . richly provides us with everything to enjoy. (1 Timothy 6:17)

**Challenge** Can the children thank and praise God throughout each day this week? Challenge them to wake up each morning and be thankful their sins are gone. Challenge them to thank God as they put on their clothes, as they eat, and as they spend time with family—even if it’s not their favorite shirt or favorite food, and even if family members aren’t always kind to one another. We look to God and pray to Him to meet all our needs.

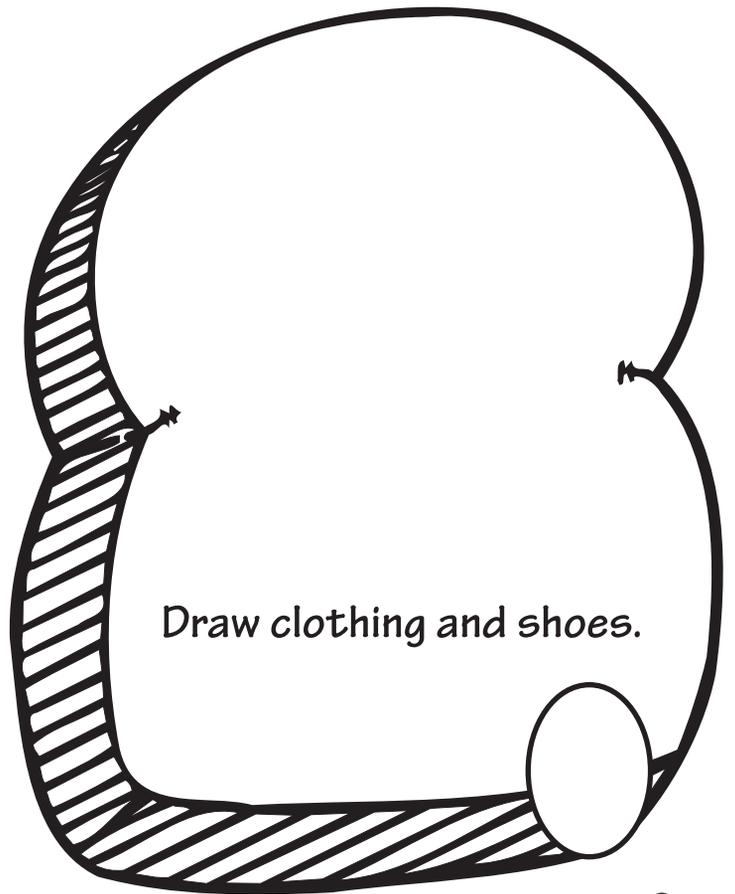
**Pray** Dear Jesus, thank You for dying and rising for my sins. Because of You, I have all I need, now and forever. In Your name I pray. Amen.

**Say** God cares for you. He gives you all you need, now and forever.

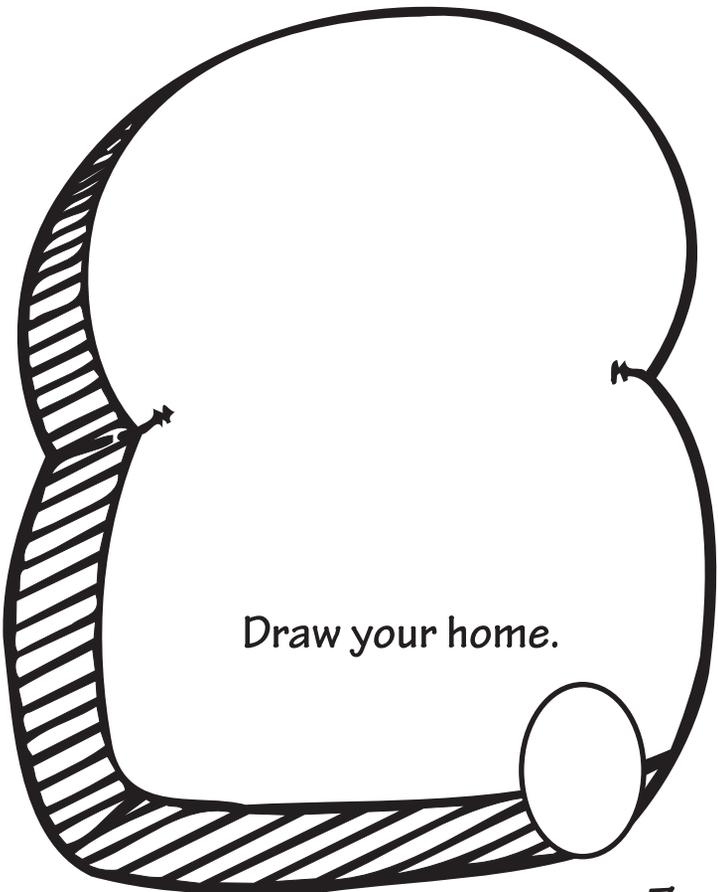
**Reflect** We teach by what we say and do—with our body language. Teaching is a live demonstration of God at work. Ask God to bless your words and actions.



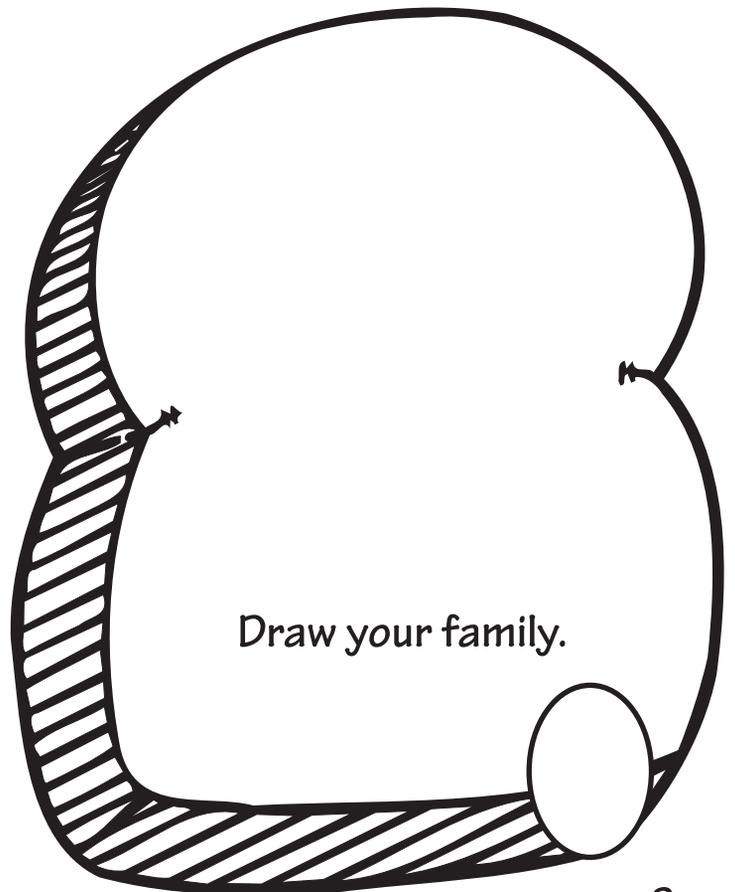
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