

# 11. Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd

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## 11

# Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close your time together with this simple prayer of thanks to Jesus for his love and care for you. Invite the children to repeat the words after you, line by line:*

**For giving us good food to eat,  
every single day,  
for bread and fruit,  
for milk and meat,  
thank you, Lord, we pray. Amen.**

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #94\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Have kids sit in a circle and retell the story. You start the story using one sentence. The person to your right adds another sentence, and so on, going around the circle. Challenge kids to tell every little detail about the story so that you go around the circle as many times as possible.*

## Story: Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd [John 6:1-13](#)

Everywhere Jesus went, people followed him. Crowds gathered to see him, to hear him teach, and to have him touch or heal them.

On this day the crowd was huge! People just kept coming and coming and coming. There were grandpas, grandmas, moms, dads, big kids, little kids, and tiny babies. There were too many people to count! **I wonder if you've ever been in a big crowd of people like that. What was that like?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Everyone was so excited to hear Jesus. They all gathered in close to listen and watch. Lunchtime came and went, and the people were still listening to Jesus. Supper time came—and still they watched and listened. But at last the great crowd of people around Jesus began to feel a rumbling in their stomachs. Children asked their parents for food. Babies began to whimper. But there was a problem—nowhere on that grassy hill was there enough food to feed such a great crowd of hungry people.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Where shall we buy bread for these people?" Philip said, "I know a place near here that sells bread, but how would we pay for it? It would take a lot of money to buy each person here just one bite of bread!"

The disciples were worried and began to look everywhere for someone who might have some food. Finally Andrew found a small boy who had taken his lunch with him. Andrew asked the boy if he would bring his lunch to Jesus. The boy said that Jesus could have his lunch, even though it was very small.

**Any guesses about what was in the boy's lunch?** *(Pause for responses. You might also hold up the story symbol for a clue.)* Just five little loaves of bread and two fish were in the lunch the boy had brought—a small lunch for one little person!

Andrew didn't think this tiny lunch would help. But Jesus took it and said, "Tell everyone to sit down." Then Jesus opened the boy's lunch and took out the bread and fish. Jesus held up the food and thanked God for it. Then, as that great crowd watched, he began to break the food into pieces, putting it into baskets for the disciples.

Without saying a word, the disciples passed the bread and the fish to the grandpas, the grandmas, the moms, the dads, the big kids, the little kids, and even some of the older babies who sat there waiting and watching. Everyone ate—and ate—and ate. There was so much food that everyone in that great crowd had plenty. And all from the little lunch that was just big enough for one small boy!

**I wonder how Jesus could feed so many people from one little lunch.** *(Pause for responses.)*

When everyone had finished eating, Jesus said, "Pick up all the food that is left. Let nothing be wasted." So the disciples took their baskets and gathered every piece of bread that was left over. And can you imagine what they brought back? TWELVE baskets full of leftover bread.

Jesus had made the one little lunch into much more than enough for one small boy and even much more than the great crowd could eat! Only Jesus could do such a wonderful miracle! Everyone knew that Jesus cared about each hungry person in that great crowd.

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Jesus Feeds a Big Crowd](#)
  - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Feeding a Great Crowd](#)
  - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Feeds Four Thousand People](#)
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