

# **JESUS FEEDS 5000 PLUS**

**by Faye Wagner and Carol Duerksen**

## **KEY VERSE:**

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up into heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. --Luke 9:16-17

## **FAITH STORY:**

Luke 9:10-17

## **FAITH FOCUS:**

Jesus went to the town of Bethsaida to get away with his disciples, but a crowd followed them. Jesus welcomed the crowd, spoke to them, and healed those who needed to be cured. The crowd was large--as many as 5000 men, not counting women and children. As evening approached, the disciples told Jesus it was time to send the people away so they could find food and lodging. Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowd first, to which the disciples said, "We have a grand total of five loaves of bread and two fish--shall we go buy more food?" Jesus blessed the five loaves and two fish, and there was enough for everyone to eat, plus twelve baskets of leftovers.

## **SESSION GOAL:**

Help students develop a new understanding of this familiar story and apply it to their lives.

## **SESSION OBJECTIVES:**

### **By the end of this session, the students will:**

- Spend time processing the story--compare what they think they know with the story itself.
- Think about what this story might mean for their lives today.

## **MATERIALS NEEDED AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:**

- 1 Dinner rolls--enough for each student to have one plus several extra
- 2 Play Doh
- 3 Bibles
- 4 Newsprint or dry erase board and markers

## **SESSION OUTLINE**

### **FOCUS: (5 minutes)**

Ask for a volunteer. Give the volunteer one dinner roll, and instruct the student to divide it up into even pieces and feed everyone in the room until they are full. When the roll is gone, give the student another one to hand out. Continue to give one roll at a time to the student to divide up and hand out until all of the rolls are gone.

**CONNECT: (5–10 minutes)**

**Ask:** Which story do you think we're going to talk about today?

After students have guessed, ask them to name all of the things they think they know about this story. Make a list on the board or newsprint of the elements of the story that they recall.

**EXPLORE THE BIBLE: (10–30 minutes)**

Read the passage found in Luke 9:10-17 together. Read through it without stopping the first time, then go through it again as a class, checking off the elements on the list the students made. If there are things on the list that didn't show up in the reading, check the other Gospel accounts of the same event: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, John 6:1-15.

Divide into three groups. Ask group one to read the passage again and talk discuss how the disciples felt during this whole event. Ask group two to talk about what one thing really stood out for them in the story. Ask group three to talk about what God's message might be to them today from this story.

If you have time, change the group assignments so every group discusses each question.

Share the group discussions with the whole class.

**APPLY: (7–10 minutes)**

Hand out the Play Doh. Ask students to shape their Play Doh into a dinner roll. If you have time and want to have some fun, offer a prize to the person whose Play Doh looks the most like a dinner roll--and reward that student with another roll!

Ask students to spend some quiet time, thinking about what God might be saying to them personally through today's story. Ask them to shape their clay to symbolize that word from God to them. Promise students that this is a personal time and they will not have to share it with the class.

**RESPOND: (5 minutes)**

Ask students to give you their Play Doh. Combine all of it together, then give each student a chunk. Say: God has a message for each one of us today, and God also wants us to support each other. Your symbol of what God is saying to you has been combined with all of the other symbols, and now you have a new piece of Play Doh. Take this piece of Play Doh home, and put it someplace where you'll see it every day and pray for the other members of this class.

Close with a prayer.