

Joyful Catholic Families
Lesson #3 – Jesus Feeds 5000 & Advent

Read “The Boy Who Shared His Lunch”:

(Go to [this post](#) for the bread and fish PDF.)

(Read-Aloud-Bible Stories, volume 2 by Ella K. Lindvall)

How many children are here today?

(Count them out loud. The children can help you count)

I’m going to read you a story about Jesus. In this story there are 5000 men (daddy’s). That is a lot more people than we have here today.

(Show the children what 5000 looks like by showing them the sheets of happy faces.)

There were also women (mommy’s) and children so there were lots and lots of people.

In this story a little boy has some fish? Let’s count how many.

(count the two paper fish)

The little boy also has some loaves of bread? Let’s count how many.

(count the 5 paper loaves of bread)

(Read the story.)

Did the little boys’ 2 fish and 5 bread feed all the people? (Yes)

Leftover Food:

(This post at [Faith Sprouts](#) inspired this activity.)

When the people were done eating, there was food leftover.

- The disciples (Jesus’ friends) went out and picked up the food.
- Let’s see how much food was left over.

(Have the children line up along a wall.)

We are going to pretend that these cotton balls are bread and fish.

And we are going to pretend that these are the baskets that Jesus’ disciples used to pick up the leftovers.

(Put the 12 bowls/baskets where the children easily fill them).

Quickly scatter the cotton balls on the floor.

Tell the children to pick up all the cotton balls and put them in the bowls/baskets.

(When the cotton balls are all picked up, the children should return to standing by the wall.)

Ask the children:

- How many fish did the little boy have? (2)
- How many loaves did the little boy have? (5)
- Now let's see how many baskets of leftover bread and fish there were. (count the bowls/baskets)
- There were 12 baskets of leftover food!
- We don't know how big the baskets were but I'm guessing they were bigger than these bowls/baskets.

Jesus did a miracle. He made the 2 fish and 5 loaves become lots and lots of food.

(Spread the cotton balls on the floor to play again.)

Make basket with bread and fish:

(I found the basket idea at [Meaningful Mama](#).)

(Go to [this post](#) for the bread and fish PDF.)

Cut out the fish and bread first (so those who are slower at coloring can be at a stopping point when it is time to move onto the next activity.)

Color the fish and bread.

Color the baskets with markers to keep from smashing them.

Being Thankful Game: (children come back and sit on the floor together)

What do you think the people told Jesus after he fed them? (thank you)

What holiday do we celebrate that can help us remember to say "thank you" to God? (Thanksgiving)

What is one thing that you can thank God for? (ask each child)

I think when we tell God we are thankful; it makes God happy.

It also makes us happy because we remember all the wonderful ways God has blessed us.

Let's play a game and tell God thank you.

Stand back from the container (bowl or box). Toss the pompom (or bean bag or ping pong ball) into the container. If you miss, move a little closer and try again. Keep moving closer until you get the ball in. When you get the ball in, say one thing you are thankful for. (i.e., If the sign says purple, say something you are thankful for that is purple.)

Do this for all the containers.

Advent chain:

(Go to [this post](#) for PDF and instructions.)

Before we meet the next time we are going to begin a new Church year.
Our church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent.

What is Advent? (A time to prepare to celebrate Christmas)

What do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus' birthday)

We are going to make an Advent chain to help you be ready to celebrate Christmas.
(Show chain.)

Each day of Advent you will take off one link from the chain and read it.

(Hand out Advent chain, scissors, and glue sticks. Make the chain.)

(Provide bags to carry home finished chains.)

Stickers:

- Give each child a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

nametags
permanent markers
prayers for prayer rings
home lessons
snack
plates/napkins
water
glasses
stickers
camera

Pages with 5000 happy faces

– taped together accordion style (16 sheets of 300 faces & 1 sheet of 200 faces)

Read-Aloud Bible Stories Vol 2

Pictures of 2 fish and 5 loaves (cut apart).

12 small to medium size bowls/baskets

Enough cotton balls to fill the baskets

paper plate baskets – one per child

- cut and staple before class using the instructions at [Meaningful Mama](#)

fish and bread for baskets – print on white cardstock

scissors

crayons/markers

Before class put empty boxes, baskets, and/or bowls around the classroom.

Put a sign on each box, basket, or bowl to say what to thank God for (i.e., purple, toys,..) (Go to [this post](#) for the PDF)

Things to toss into the boxes/baskets/bowls (i.e., pompoms, ping pong balls, bean bags,...)

Sample Advent chain in paper bag

Advent chain papers

Advent chain stars

Scissors

Glue sticks

Bags to carry home Advent chains