

What's for Lunch?

Bible Story

Jesus Feeds 5,000

Scripture

Mark 6:30-44;

John 6:1-13

The Scene: a grassy field

The Simple Setup: You'll need no furniture on the stage; an open area will work well.

For Extra Impact: Consider providing blankets or beach towels for your crowd members to sit on. Place several baskets on the stage as well. For extra fun, break apart loaves of bread and serve goldfish crackers during the story.

The Characters

narrator: a friendly storyteller

Philip: a guy or girl

Jesus: a guy

Little Boy: a guy

Disciples: kids willing to act along with the directions given

Crowd: kids willing to act along with the directions given

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Philip, Jesus, and Little Boy, form your children into two groups: Disciples and the Crowd.

As the skit begins, the Crowd is standing stage left. Jesus, Philip, and the Disciples are at stage right. The Narrator may be offstage or at one side of the stage throughout the skit.

narrator: Jesus had been teaching to big crowds all day. He'd been outside in the SUN, too. At last Jesus waved at Philip and the other Disciples. Jesus was signaling them to COME to him.

Philip: Boy, Jesus must be worn OUT. I know I am! I hope he's calling it a DAY. Let's go see what Jesus wants.

narrator: Jesus said...

Jesus: It's been a LONG day. Let's get in the boat and go to someplace QUIET so we can rest.

Philip: We're with YOU, Jesus!

narrator: The OTHER DISCIPLES were nodding their heads in agreement. They were giving each other HIGH FIVES. They climbed into a boat and raised the sails. They rolled up coils of rope. They sat and gently SWAYED as the waves moved the boat away from shore.

Philip: Uh-oh. Are YOU guys seeing what I'M seeing?

narrator: Philip saw that the Crowd they'd just left was running along the shore. People wanted to keep LISTENING to Jesus. And there were OTHER people coming, too. Maybe the DISCIPLES were tired, and JESUS was tired, but The CROWD wasn't tired! Look at them running in place! Look at them jumping up and down to get a better view!



Start the "Jesus Feeds 5,000" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD (track 30)*. Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Philip: At this rate, they're going to BEAT us to the landing spot. They'll be standing on the other shore when we GET there! Jesus, can't you send them AWAY? They're getting kind of ANNOYING.

Jesus: No, Philip, I have COMPASSION for these people. I'll teach them a little longer.

narrator: After Jesus and the Disciples reached the shore, the Crowd sat down to get comfortable, and so did the Disciples, but Jesus kept standing. He had to stand so people could see him.

Philip: Master, YOU'RE tired. WE'RE tired! This CROWD is tired. Plus, we're out here in the middle of NOWHERE. Let's let these people go so they can find something to EAT.

Jesus: Philip, where can we get bread to FEED all these people?

narrator: Philip looked around. There wasn't a store in sight. The other Disciples checked their pockets to see if they happened to have enough candy bars or gum to feed a few thousand people.

Philip: Are you KIDDING? Even if we worked for MONTHS, we wouldn't have enough money to buy bread for all these people! There are THOUSANDS of them here!

narrator: One of the other Disciples pointed to a Little Boy. The Little Boy had a lunch he'd brought from home. There were five loaves of bread and two fish. That would take care of the BOY, but what about everyone ELSE?

Jesus: Tell everyone to sit down, and ask the Little Boy to come to me.

Philip: You heard the man, kid. Go see Jesus—and take your lunch.

narrator: The Little Boy did as Jesus asked. He held out the lunch he'd brought and gave it to Jesus. Maybe the Little Boy thought Jesus was hungry, but Jesus wanted the food for ANOTHER reason.

Jesus: You're about to share your lunch, son, but not just with me. You're going to share it with EVERYONE.

Philip: I hate to interrupt, but have you SEEN how many people are in the Crowd? There must be at least FIVE THOUSAND, and that's just counting the MEN!

Jesus: I know. Watch.

narrator: Jesus thanked God for the bread...AND the fish. Then he told his Disciples to pass out the food to the Crowd.

Jesus: Make sure that everyone gets some.

Philip: Five loaves and two fish? No PROBLEM. We'll be back in about...oh...10 SECONDS.

Jesus: Just do what I say. YOU'LL see.

narrator: The Disciples walked among the Crowd, handing out fish and bread. And the more they handed out, the more it seemed they HAD.

Philip: This is VERY odd...did I MISS something here? Like maybe a DELIVERY CARAVAN bringing all these fish sandwiches?

narrator: But it was no trick. It was a MIRACLE.

Philip: Every time I reach into the basket, there's still plenty of BREAD! Same for the FISH!

Jesus: Now go gather the leftovers, so nothing is wasted.

Philip: I'll collect the leftover bread, and you guys collect the fish. I'll meet you right back here.

narrator: When the Disciples were finished, there were 12 BASKETS of leftovers!



To Talk About

- ◆ The crowd followed Jesus so people could learn from him. How can you learn more about what Jesus teaches?
- ◆ When Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowd, they didn't think they could do it. When was a time you doubted that you could do what Jesus told you to do?
- ◆ With Jesus' help, the disciples were able to feed the crowd. What big jobs do you think Jesus wants to help you do?

Topical Tie-Ins: Miracles, Faith, Listening to Jesus