

# Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

**TEXT** John 6:1-13

**OBJECTIVE** The students will be able to describe how Christ fed the 5,000 and will recognize that He promises to supply all our needs.

**MEMORY VERSE** My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:19

## MEMORY VERSE SONG

My God shall sup-ply all your need, my God shall sup-ply  
all your need ac-cord-ing to his rich-es in glo-ry  
by Christ Je-sus.

## MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

**MY GOD** — Both hands up, look up.

**SHALL SUPPLY** — Hands in front of you, fingertips closed move hands away from body opening fingers.

**ALL YOUR NEED** — Make large circle with right hand into left hand in front of you palm up, move across body.

**ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES** — Left palm up, right hand touching palm, fingers closed, move up opening fingers.

**IN GLORY** — Left palm up, right fingers touching, move up wiggling fingers.

**BY CHRIST JESUS** — Right middle finger to left palm, left middle finger to right palm.

## MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Cut apart into sections the basket containing the loaves and fish. (See Pattern at end of lesson.) Put the puzzle together a section at a time as your students learn their memory verse.

## BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

**Introduction:** Bring a small basket with five little loaves and two fishes. (You may wish to cut the fish shape from cardboard.) Also bring a picture of a crowd of people. Ask your students: Can this much food feed this many people?

**Progression of Events:**

1. A great multitude followed Jesus when He went into the mountains with His disciples.
2. He asked Philip how the people should be fed, though He already knew what He would do.
3. Andrew came with word that a lad present had five loaves and two fishes.
4. Jesus blessed the food and gave it to the disciples to distribute to the people.

**Climax:** There was enough food for all, with 12 baskets remaining.

**Conclusion:** Jesus' miraculous power provided for the needs of the people, and will do the same today for those who trust Him.

Response: Your students will be able to retell the event of the miracle, and will be able to enumerate ways God provides for our needs.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jesus had been intensely involved in healing, teaching, instructing His disciples and defending His ministry when this incident took place. As Mark 6:31 states, "There were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." Jesus' plan was to take the disciples the four miles by boat to the far side of the Sea of Galilee for some much needed rest and private instruction. The people, however, saw them leaving and hurried on foot the ten miles around the lake and met Him on the other side.

His reaction was not one of frustration or anger, but compassion as He saw the crowd as "sheep not having a shepherd" (Mark 6:34).

Jesus used this occasion to teach the people and especially His disciples who He was. The people were hungry for bread but He came to satisfy the deeper longings of their spirits. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

This miracle must have made a deep impression on His disciples because it is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospel accounts.

## IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Have someone give a testimony of how God provided for him/her.

Make paper loaves and fishes (see Patterns) and write questions about the lesson on each.

Bring a sack lunch or basket lunch to class. Bring fruit that can be cut or broken into sections. Pray over the lunch and tell the class about how Jesus prayed over the boy's lunch, and then start dividing your lunch with the class. Show the apples and crackers and say, "It really isn't enough for our whole class, but we prayed over it and Jesus will bless it and there will be enough for all."

Cut several fish from heavy paper. Print one word of the memory verse on the back of each fish until each word is used. Put all the fish in a basket, have the children "go fishing" and then put the verse together.

Make a wheel and divide it into five pie-shaped sections. Have a picture in each section — 5 loaves, 2 fishes, 12 baskets, 1 boy, Jesus. Put a spinner in the

center. Ask each child to spin the spinner. When the spinner stops tell what the picture had to do with the lesson. As an alternative, the five pictures could be placed on a stationary wheel and a second wheel with an opening cut in it placed on top. Fasten with a thumbtack so the children could spin it.

Bring bread or fish crackers and sardines for children to taste so that they can imagine what food in Bible times was like.

Divide a small biscuit among the class members. Ask if they got full on that. Explain that Jesus divided the lunch and it fed all with food left over.

Use miniature loaves of bread in a big basket with plastic fish that come apart (H.K.Ltd. has them). Or you could use Swedish gumdrop fish.

## QUESTIONS

What did the little boy have to give to Jesus?

How many people were there?

How many baskets were left over after everyone was through eating?

Can you tell how Jesus has provided for you?

Who has promised to supply all our needs?

What question did Jesus ask Philip and why?

What might Jesus have been trying to teach the disciples by this incident?

What are some ways in which people today are tested regarding their faith and trust in Jesus?

## PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Cut several fish out of heavy paper. Write one word or part of the memory verse on the back of each fish. Put all the fish in a basket and have the children "go fishing." Then put the verse together.

Bring pictures of a big dinner and a picture of five loaves and two small fishes. Ask the children, "Which of these did Jesus use to feed the 5,000 people?"

Bring two fish and five small rolls to class to help the children understand how small the lunch was that the boy shared.

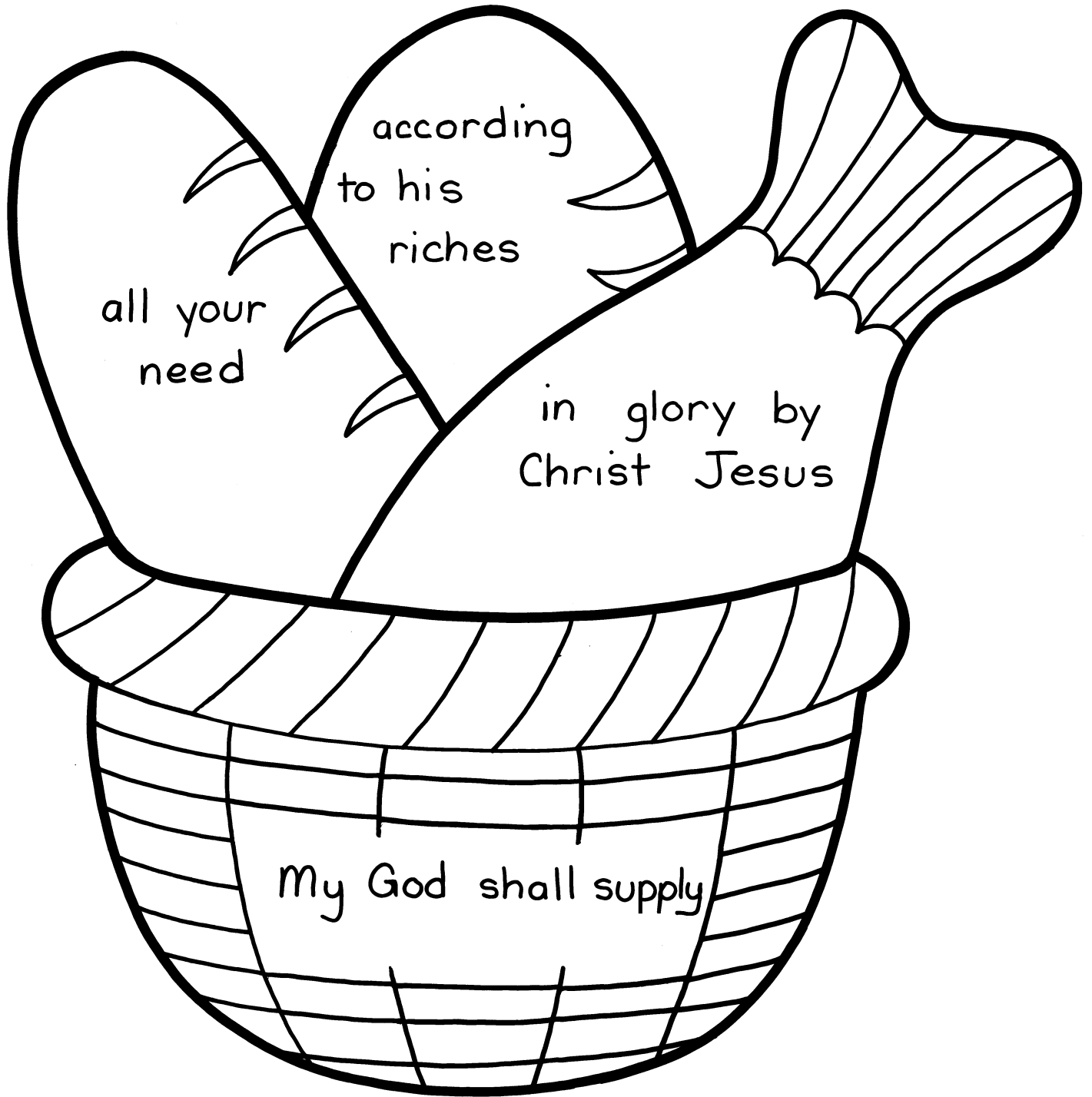
Use Pepperidge Farm fish crackers as a lesson illustration which will double as a snack for your class.

## REVIEW IDEAS

Have students sit in groups (maybe on the floor). Pass around the fish crackers as an example of the loaves and fishes. This can be done while a flannelgraph story is being presented.

Show a miniature fishing pole, net, boat, toy oven, loaf





all your  
need

according  
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riches

in glory by  
Christ Jesus

My God shall supply