



# JOURNEY KIDS

Bethany Lutheran, Elkhorn NE

## JESUS FEEDS 5,000

John 6:1-14

Page 426 of the Spark Story Bible

Hi, everyone. We're going to hear a really special story today about a miracle. In this story, Jesus had thousands of people following him. People everywhere were excited to see Jesus in person because they heard stories of the miracles he performed and the amazing news he was spreading about God's love. When all of those followers gathered around for a meal, Jesus performed one of the most exciting miracles the people had ever seen. Think about some words you use when you see something amazing. When you hear the word **AMAZING**, you say one of these words instead.

Jesus was teaching a huge crowd when the disciples realized that all of the people were very hungry. Jesus said that they could feed them...That's **AMAZING!**

The disciples were doubtful because there were so many people, but Jesus said it could be done...That's **AMAZING!**

A young boy had some fish and bread, and Jesus said that was enough to feed everyone. ...That's **AMAZING!**

Yes, it was! **IT WAS A MIRACLE!**

**Now let's read the whole story from the Spark Story Bible!**



TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:

Family Discussion  
Easy Craft or Activity  
Simple Game

# FAMILY DISCUSSION TIME

You can read along with Gera on Sunday mornings in the Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BethanyLutheranKidMin/> or read it at home from the Spark Story Bible.

If you don't have a Spark Story Bible at home, check one out from Bethany by emailing [gera.schultz@bethanyelkhorn.org](mailto:gera.schultz@bethanyelkhorn.org)

Talk about these questions:

- If you add the number of barley loaves and the number of fish the boy brought for his lunch, how many food items did he give to Jesus? How many items are usually in your lunch?
- Pretend you are the young boy in the story. Would it be difficult to share your small lunch with a bunch of strangers? Why or why not?
- What is something you have (like a talent, ability, or possession) that you can give to Jesus for him to bless and multiply?
- Have each member of your family tell or show something they can give to Jesus to bless. How could these things help others or share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world?



## EYE SPARK

This week, look for baskets around the house. Each time you see a basket, remember the twelve baskets of food that were leftover.



## EAR SPARK

Listen for the sound of your microwave dinging when your food is hot and ready to eat. Each time you hear it ding, say, "Jesus blessed the bread and the fish and it multiplied!"

# SELF PORTRAIT WITH PATTERN BORDER

## Set Up:

Pour cereal squares and fish-shaped crackers into separate bowls. Place supplies in a central location.

## Instructions:

In our story, the little boy gave what he had to Jesus. What are some things we can give to Jesus for him to use? (abilities, talents, money, time) Yes, Jesus can take something very small and make it very big, just like he did with the loaves and fish .

In today's art project, you are going to draw yourself doing something that you can give to Jesus for him to use. It can be a talent, a skill, or something you like to do. Once your picture is finished, you are going to create a really special pattern border with cereal squares and fish-shaped crackers! Let's get started.

1. Give each kid a sheet of drawing paper.
2. Ask kids to draw a self-portrait before working on a border for the paper.
3. When kids are ready to begin working on their borders, invite them to examine the cereal squares and fish-shaped crackers as a group. Discuss how the cereal squares and crackers look like what Jesus fed to the crowd of 5,000.
4. Invite kids to make any kind of pattern they like with the cereal squares and crackers—encourage them to lay out a pattern before they start gluing.
5. As kids glue, remind to apply enough glue to make the cereal squares and crackers stick to the paper.
6. When kids are satisfied with their designs, ask them to set the art aside to dry.

Your artwork looks great! I hope that each time you see what you made, you can shout out loud, "I can help Jesus!"

## SUPPLIES:

- Oven toasted wheat cereal squares
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Bowls
- Drawing paper, 8½ x 11 inches
- Liquid glue
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers



## FUN FACTS

Barley was one of the most important food grains in the ancient world, including Israel.

It was sometimes used for medicinal purposes as well as being the general food of Roman gladiators, who were called *hordearii* or "barley men."

# "I CAN HELP" BOARD GAME

## SUPPLIES:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Cans of food (one for each player)
- Die

### Set Up:

1. Create "spaces" for a life-size game board by printing these scenarios on sheets of paper, one scenario per sheet?
  - a. I'm a good reader, Jesus. I'll read a Bible story to someone younger! (Move ahead one space.)
  - b. But Jesus, I want to buy candy with my money! (Move back one space.)
  - c. I'm really good at sports. How can I help Jesus? (Answer, then roll again.)
  - d. I have \$2.00 in my piggy bank. I can offer it to Jesus' church! (Move ahead one space.)
  - e. I'm too busy to help Jesus today. (Move back one space.)
  - f. I am very friendly. How can I help Jesus? (Answer, then roll again.)
  - g. I earned extra money this week. How can I help Jesus? (Answer, then roll again.)
  - h. I don't want to help Jesus. I'd much rather play. (Move back one space.)
  - i. No soccer game today? I can help my family cook dinner! (Move ahead one space.)
  - j. I'm a hard worker. How can I help Jesus? (Answer, then roll again.)
  - k. You WON by helping Jesus!
2. Determine the number of players who will play this game. For each player, label a can of food on top with a letter or number.
3. Place the printed game board spaces around the floor around the room, then use masking tape to secure them in place.
4. Use tape and a marker to cover up the larger numbers (3, 4, 5, 6) on the cube or six-sided die and re-label them so kids will only be able to roll "1" or "2."

### Instructions:

**Say:** In our story, the little boy gave what he had to Jesus. We can give what we have to Jesus, too! We may not have loaves and fish to offer, but we all have something to offer. Some of us may have talents—like reading or drawing or doing well in sports. Some of us may have extra time, and some may have an extra dollar or two. We can believe that if we offer whatever we have to Jesus, he can do just what he did with those loaves and fish—Jesus can multiply our gifts and make them bigger! Let's play a game together. In this game, sharing with Jesus is what makes you a winner!

1. Give each player a can of food to use as a place-marker on the game board.
2. Explain that the players will take turns rolling the number cube to find out how many spaces they will move.
3. When a player rolls the cube and moves the place-marker, direct him or her to read the wording on the space out loud. (Younger students may need some help.)
4. The first player to reach the end will win the game.

### Say:

What helped you win this game? (helping Jesus, the spaces marked "I can help!") That's right. I can help Jesus. And you can, too!

## ACTIVATE FAITH

### FOR FAMILIES TO DO TOGETHER

Work together to prepare a pot of soup. Make sure each family member helps in some way, whether it's cutting or washing vegetables, opening cans, or cleaning the work area. When your soup is finished, take the pot to a neighbor, a sick person, or a homeless shelter and share the ways that God has blessed your family.

(Extra credit if your soup has barley in it!)

### FOR OLDER KIDS

With adult permission, use the internet and find a few easy bread recipes. Print the recipes off and collect the ingredients you'll need to make them. Cook or bake one of the recipes. Share the tasty treat with your family as you thank Jesus for all the food he provides.

### FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Look through your closet or drawers to find a few items of clothing that you have outgrown. Take the bag to a charity drop-off location. When you do, say a prayer asking God to bless your clothing and to let your clothing help others.

### FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we give you our abilities and strengths so that they may be miraculously increased by you. Multiply our gifts so we may share them with others and bless your kingdom. Amen.



Bless one another by making the sign of the cross on foreheads or hands and say:  
"May you know God loves you."