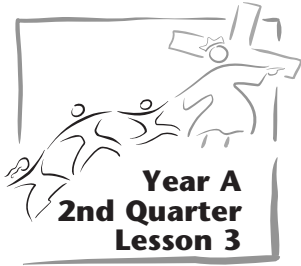


LESSON



Loaves and Fishes

COMMUNITY

I show love to my family and friends.

References

Matthew 14:13–21; John 6:1–13; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 364–371.

Memory Verse

“Let us do good to all people” (Galatians 6:10, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God knows when people are hungry.

Feel confident that God cares about how they feel.

Respond by sharing with those who are hungry.

The Message



I will share with others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Crowds of people follow Jesus to a remote place where He teaches and heals the sick all day. Late in the day Jesus feels sorry for the people because He knows they must be hungry. He tells the disciples to give them something to eat. They tell Jesus they have only five loaves and two fishes from a little boy’s lunch. Jesus blesses the food, and there is enough to feed 5,000, with 12 baskets of food left over.

This is a lesson about community.

Jesus was concerned about the needs of those who followed Him and wanted His disciples to share His concern. The small lunch offered by the little boy may not have seemed like much compared to the great need, but his generosity was multiplied to bless many others.

Teacher Enrichment

“After the multitude had been fed, there was an abundance of food left. But

THREE



He who had all the resources of infinite power at His command said, 'Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.' These words meant more than putting the bread into the baskets. The lesson was twofold. Nothing is to be wasted. We are to let slip no temporal advantage. We should neglect nothing that will tend to benefit a human being. Let everything be gathered up that will relieve the necessity of earth's hungry ones. And there should be the same carefulness in

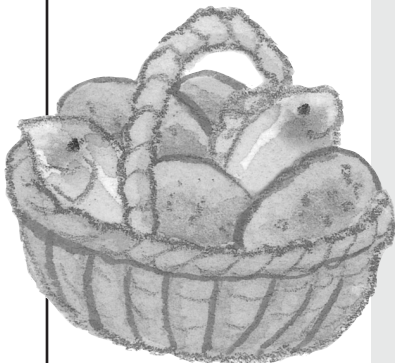
spiritual things. When the baskets of fragments were collected, the people thought of their friends at home. They wanted them to share in the bread that Christ had blessed" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 368).

Room Decorations

Continue to use the same outdoor beach scene you have used for the past two months. Add a container of real, silk, or plastic flowers for the children to "pick."

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time			
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Book Basket</i> B. <i>Sharing Basket</i> C. <i>Sand Digging</i> D. <i>Rocking Chair</i> E. <i>Nature Box</i>	books about fish and/or bread basket full of toys to share small pool or tub of clean play sand, buckets, shovels, seashells adult-size rocking chair toy animals, rocks, feathers, flowers, shells
3 Getting Started	up to 10	A. Welcome B. Prayer C. Visitors D. Offering E. Birthdays	mirror or sea animal puppet (or toy stuffed sea animals), rainbow sticks or "Jesus Loves Me!" banners toy boat or other container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	A. <i>Memory Verse</i> B. <i>Loaves and Fishes</i> C. <i>Walk Beside the Sea</i> D. <i>Sea Breezes</i> E. <i>Flowers Nodding</i> F. <i>Jesus Is Love</i> G. <i>Hungry People</i> H. <i>Sharing Food</i> I. <i>Memory Verse</i> J. <i>The Blessing</i> K. <i>Breaking Bread</i> L. <i>Sharing Food</i> M. <i>Sharing Sand Toys</i> N. <i>Sharing Pinwheels</i> O. <i>Memory Verse</i>	felt or cardboard small Bible books felt, fabric, plastic, or sponge bread and fish; small basket or sack for each child fan silk, plastic, or real flowers; container for them; floral scent air freshener or perfume artificial bread and fish; large basket or felt board quilt or blanket snack item, paper cups snack item, paper cups tub or pool, clean play sand, toy shovels and buckets pinwheels (or other toy)



LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Loaves and Fish Basket</i>	paper plates, stapler, reproducible patterns (see pp. 69, 70), scissors
	Week 2	<i>Sponge-painted Bread</i>	reproducible pattern (see p. 71), sponge shapes, finger paint, scissors, paper, baby wipes or paper towels and water
	Week 3	<i>Bread to Share</i>	reproducible pattern (see p. 72), craft sticks or tongue depressors, glue, white construction paper, scissors
	Week 4	<i>Cereal Fish</i>	reproducible pattern (see p. 68), glue, round cereal, construction paper, scissors
	Week 5	<i>Sharing Cup</i>	paper cups, chenille sticks, stickers, small gifts
	Optional (any week)	<i>Fish Finger Puppet</i>	reproducible pattern (see p. 73), scissors, glue or needle and yarn, felt or other cloth scraps
Snack Center (Optional)			fish-shaped crackers, juice or water, paper cups, napkins

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared

by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

The doorbell rang. My husband answered it, and I heard two women from church. Into the kitchen they came, bearing their gifts of love. Three casse-

roles, a couple of salads, two plates of cookies, and some bread all sat on my counter. I could see my husband salivating already. My mother had stayed with us for a week after the baby was born, but she was gone now, and I just hadn't quite felt up to cooking yet. These dear women had worked with other women to bring us enough food for several meals to come. "Thank you! How dear of you!" I said. They "oohed" and "aahed" over the baby, then left. But their tasty gift filled our tummies and our hearts.

What are some ways people have shared with you? How can we reach out to one another better?

Week 2

After nursing my secondborn in the dressing room, I laid my fussing infant son down in the stroller and began to change his diaper. We were shopping with Grandma, who had come to help us at his birth. Suddenly I felt a warm wetness on my foot. Over the edge of the stroller came a little stream from my diaperless baby boy. It trickled down to my foot and onto the floor. *Why did I even leave the house?* I thought.

You've probably had a day or two when you wondered why you went out! We've all had them! Jesus promises us, "I am with you *always*" (Matthew 28:20, NIV). I guess that means even on those days when I should have stayed at home.

Share a time you went out and were sorry you did. In what way can Jesus' words "I am with you *always*" encourage you?

Week 3

The ocean breeze cooled my face. I couldn't wait to take our 15-month-old son to the beach. Here we were! He loved the sand, but the waves were just too big

and scary. We tried and tried to encourage him to go into the water, to no avail.

The day passed, and shortly before it was time to leave we went down to the water one more time. This time his bravery had increased. He reached up for my hand, and for Mommy's hand too. Holding confidently to both of us, he charged into the waves. Later I reflected on the day. "Lord," I prayed, "help him learn to hold on tightly to You!"

Share ways you can teach your children to hold tightly to God.

Week 4

It was pitch-black down in the depths of Mammoth Cave—blacker than any night. We were at the part of the tour where the guide turns off the lights to give the visitors a chance to experience blackness, so black you can't see your hand in front of your face.

Our youngest son grabbed his daddy's leg and whispered, "Daddy, does Jesus know we are down here?" He always knows. No matter how dark the night, how desperate the circumstance, or how far away the light may seem, He knows and has promised not to abandon us. "I will be with you *always*" (Matthew 28:20, NIV).

Share a time you felt it was your darkest hour. How did Jesus see you through?

Week 5

We were visiting my parents when my 17-month-old son was bitten by fire ants. We took him to the urgent-care center, where they said to open each one of the swollen bites and put medication on it.

The very next day he was playing with his cousin, jumped off the bed, and dislocated his shoulder. So off we went to the urgent-care center again. They questioned me about the ugly welts, though I had just been there the day before. My son's shoulder was put back in place, and we went home.

The next day he ran out the door onto the wet pavement, where Grandpa was washing the car. You guessed it! He slipped and fell, and broke his leg. I did *not* want to go back to that urgent-care center! But it was the closest place, and he was in terrible pain, so we went. After seeing this child three times in three days, the attendants reported me to the child protection services, who came and would not let me be with my baby. I was beside myself! But everything soon worked out, and after a few hours I was reunited with him. We made it through that awful time, but I'll never forget the helpless feelings I experienced.

Share a time you felt utterly helpless in regard to your child. How is God a help when those times come?

Week 5 (Optional)

Our children were sound asleep when we left to take our friends to the

airport. It was only a couple of kilometers from our home, and we wouldn't be gone long. My mother came to stay with the children while they slept. The plane was late, and we were gone longer than planned.

As we headed toward home, we were shocked to see our two children, ages 2 and 4, along the roadside. They had crossed three very busy roads to get as far as they were. We whisked them into the car and hurried home. Of course my mother was shocked to see us drive up with the children, who, as far as she knew, were still sleeping.

The children had wanted to say goodbye to our guests, so they let themselves out of the house and headed to the airport. Right then we knelt together to thank God for His care and protection of our family.

Share a time your children or family were clearly protected by God.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Have a basket full of simple books about fish and sea life and/or bread.

B. Sharing Basket

Provide toys and encourage children

to practice taking turns and sharing.

C. Sand Digging

Have some clean play sand and sea shells in a small "kiddie" swimming pool. Provide buckets and shovels for the children to dig for shells.

D. Rocking Chair

Provide an adult-size rocking chair so parents of children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities may hold and rock them.

E. Nature Box

A box with toy animals, rocks, feathers, flowers, shells, etc., for the children to touch and look at will interest some children.

3

GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- ☐ hand mirror
- ☐ toy stuffed sea animal or puppet
- ☐ rainbow sticks or "Jesus Loves Me" banners

Say: **Good morning! I love Sabbath, and I'm so glad you are here today.** Hold a mirror up to each child's face so they can see themselves. (Or take a sea animal puppet or toy stuffed sea animal to each child, shake each child's hand, etc.) Personally welcome each child as you sing "Greeting Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 4).

Who has come to Sabbath school,
Mary, Mary,*
Who has come to Sabbath School,
Mary has.

—Mary E. Key McKinley. Adapted.

*Insert child's name.
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Say: **We come to Sabbath School to learn about Jesus and how much He loves us.** Distribute rainbow sticks or "Jesus Loves Me" banners to wave while you sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 102).

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

—William B. Bradbury

B. Prayer Time

Say: **Jesus wants to be with us in Sabbath School this morning. Let's invite Him to be with us.** To prepare for prayer, sing "I Talk to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 10).

I talk to Jesus when I pray,
When I pray, when I pray.
I talk to Jesus when I pray,
And He hears me, I know.

—Dorothy Robison

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Say a simple prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to be with us in our Sabbath School. Thank You for the Bible and the stories in it that tell us about You. Amen.**

C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor individually and then sing "We Welcome You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 7).

We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.
We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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D. Offering**You Need:**

- ☐ toy boat or other offering container

Say: **Some people don't know that Jesus loves them. Our offering goes to help them learn about Jesus.** Place a small toy boat or other

container on the floor in which children may place their offering. As the offering is collected, sing "A Boat Goes Sailing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 35).

A boat goes sailing to the mission land,
Sailing, sailing mission boat.
It takes a Bible to the children there,
Sailing missionary boat.

—A. Haas. Adapted.

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E. Birthdays**You Need:**

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift (optional)

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has a birthday. Who has a birthday? Let's all close our eyes.** Lead the birthday child up front while singing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

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Assist child in dropping money into the artificial cake or other container while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 37).

Mary* has a birthday, we're so glad,
We will see how many she* has had.
As we count the money we are told
[count]
Yes, the money says she's* 6* years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

*Insert name, appropriate pronoun, and age of child.

Light the birthday candles, and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 39).

Happy birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],
Happy birthday to you.

—Janet Sage

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Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Pray for the child and if possible, give him or her a small gift from Sabbath School.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY



A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ felt or cardboard Bibles with picture of Jesus inside

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small Bible books and sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 27).

I open my Bible book and read,
"God loves me, God loves me."
—Johnie B. Wood. Adapted.

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Say: **Our memory verse comes from the Bible. Our memory verse is "Let us do good to all people." Say that with me. We have a memory verse song too.** Sing the following words to the tune of "Let Us Do Good to all Men" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 265).

Let us do good to all people,
Let us do good,
Let us do good.
Let us do good to all people,
Let us do good.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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You Need:

- ☐ artificial bread and fish (see activity)
- ☐ small baskets or paper sacks

B. Loaves and Fishes

Say: **Our Bible story is about a little boy who went to see Jesus one day. He had heard that Jesus was telling stories out in the country, and he wanted to go. So his mother made him a lunch in case he got hungry. His lunch was two little fish and five little loaves**

of bread. Distribute a small basket or paper sack filled with five loaves and two fishes made of fabric, plastic, felt, sponge, etc., to each child while you sing "The Loaves and the Fishes" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 55). NOTE: For another version of this song, see page 74 of this teaching guide.

One little fish, two little fish,
One, two, three, four, five little loaves
of bread,
One little fish, two little fish,
One, two, three, four, five little loaves
of bread.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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C. Walk Beside the Sea

Say: **The little boy went walking to where Jesus was. He had a nice walk beside the sea.** Take the children on a walk outside, if possible. If not, walk around your classroom or in whatever space you have available. Sing this song to the melody of "I Love Jesus!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 205).

Let's go walking, O let's go walking,
O let's go walking now beside the sea,
Let's go walking, O let's go walking,
O let's go walking now beside the sea.

D. Sea Breezes

You Need:

- ☐ fan

Say: **The little boy felt the gentle breeze blowing by the Sea of Galilee.**

Have the children stand and sway back and forth while they wave their arms over their heads. Create a breeze by fanning the children while you sing "The

Trees Are Gently Swaying" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 115).

The breeze is gently blowing,
Blowing, blowing;
The breeze is gently blowing,
Showing God's great love.

—Mildred Adair. Adapted.

E. Flowers Nodding

You Need:

- ☐ artificial or real flowers
- ☐ floral scent air freshener or perfume
- ☐ container for flowers

Say: **The little boy smelled the beautiful flowers nodding in the field. He might have picked a few.**

If you use artificial flowers, spray them with air freshener or perfume before beginning this activity. Invite

the children to pick a flower while you sing the following words to "Little Birdies in the Tree" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 111).

Little flowers in the field,
Seem to sing this song to me,
"Jesus loves and cares for us,
So we sing so happily."

—Enid G. Thorson. Adapted.

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F. Jesus Is Love

Say: **Then the little boy continued on to where Jesus was. Jesus was up on a hillside. Lots of other people were there to see Jesus too. He watched Jesus heal people. He listened to Jesus tell stories. The little boy loved Jesus so much, and he knew that Jesus loved him too!** Sing, with hand motions, "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99).

Love, Jesus is love. (Cross arms over chest, point to heaven, cross arms over chest.)

Love, Jesus is love. (Cross arms over chest, point to heaven, cross arms over chest.)

Jesus loves Bobby* and David* and Susie,* (Point to the children who are named.)

because Jesus is love. (Point to heaven, then cross arms over chest.)

—Susan Davis

* Name the children in your class.
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G. Hungry People

Say: **The little boy and all the other people were with Jesus all day. Before they knew it, it was late in the day and they were hungry. Jesus knew the people were hungry. He felt sorry for them. So He told His helpers to get food for all of them.**

Do the following finger play together.

Jesus saw the people
(hands up to shade eyes)
who had come to hear Him teach.
(hand up to ear as if listening)

They had been with Him all day
(arms out to side in inclusive gesture)

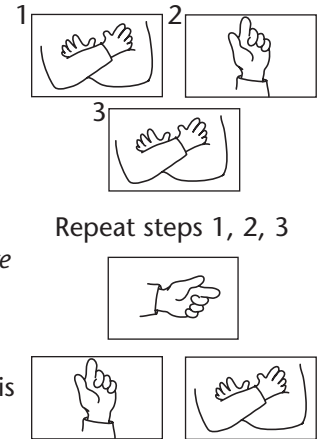
listening by the beach.
(hand up to ear as if listening)
He knew they must be hungry
(rub tummy)

as the day came to an end.
(arm sweeping down from vertical to horizontal, portraying a setting sun)

"We must find some food for them,"
(one hand moves from palm to mouth as if eating)

He told His 12 good friends.
(wag index finger)

—Unknown



H. Sharing Food

You Need:

- ☐ large basket or felt board
- ☐ artificial fish
- ☐ artificial or felt loaves of bread

Say: **When Jesus' helpers asked if anyone had any food, the little boy told them about his lunch. He had only** *(count on fingers)* **one, two little fish and** *(count on other hand)* **one, two, three, four, five little loaves of bread. It wasn't much for all those people, but he was willing to share it anyway.**

Distribute the felt or artificial loaves and fishes to the children. Have them come forward and put their loaves and fishes into a big basket, or place felt ones on the felt board. Sing the following words to the tune "Here Is the Way We Walk to Church" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 186).

This is the way we share our food,
Share our food, share our food;
This is the way we share our food,
Share our food with others.

I. Memory Verse

Say: **The little boy had learned from Jesus that Jesus wants us to share with others. Sharing is one way we can do good to all people. That's our memory verse. Sing the memory verse song with me again.** Sing the following words to the tune of "Let Us Do Good to All Men" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 265).

Let us do good to all people,
Let us do good,
Let us do good.
Let us do good to all people,
Let us do good.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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J. The Blessing

You Need:

- ☐ large blanket

Say: **Jesus was happy to have the little boy's lunch. Jesus looked out at all the hungry people. Then He looked at those one, two little fish and one, two, three, four, five little loaves of bread. Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass.** *(Invite the children to come and sit on a blanket or quilt.)* **Would this be enough food to feed all of us?** *(With a small class, say: Would this be enough to feed lots of people?)* **No. But let's see what happened. Jesus looked to heaven and said a prayer that might have been something like this** *(look to heaven and invite the children to join you as you say the following traditional prayer):*

God is great, God is good,
Let us thank Him for our food. Amen.
—Traditional

K. Breaking Bread

You Need:

- ☐ fish-shaped crackers or bread
- ☐ small paper cups

Say: **Then Jesus broke the bread into small pieces and asked His helpers to give it to the people. And those one, two little fish and one, two, three, four, five little loaves of bread fed all those hungry people. There was enough food for everyone. When all the hungry people were fed, there were 12 baskets of food left over!**

Distribute small snacks for each child. Suggestion: little paper cups with fish-shaped crackers for each child. (Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.) Sing "The Loaves and the Fishes" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 55).

One little fish, two little fish,
One, two, three, four, five little loaves
of bread,
That's how the hungry people were
fed, were fed (*by Jesus*).
One little fish, two little fish,
One, two, three, four, five little loaves
of bread,
That's how the hungry people were
fed.

—Janet Sage

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L. Sharing Food

You Need:

- ☐ fish-shaped
crackers
or bread
- ☐ small paper
cups

Say: **Jesus was
happy when the
little boy shared his
lunch. Jesus is happy
when we share too.
We can share food
with others.** (*Give
the children some of the*

*snack to share with someone else, perhaps
a parent. Don't forget to be aware of any
food allergies and adjust accordingly.*) Sing
again "The Loaves and the Fishes." (See
above.)

M. Sharing Sand Toys

You Need:

- ☐ toy shovels
- ☐ toy buckets
- ☐ pail or tub
of sand

Say: **There are
other things we can
share too. We can
share our toys in
the sand.** Distribute
toy shovels and buck-
ets to half the children.

Allow them to play

in the sand for a few minutes while you
sing "We Are Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise
Him*, no. 280). Option: If you do not
have toy shovels and buckets, use other
toys for sharing.

We are sharing, we are sharing;
Jesus wants me to share with you.
It was your turn; now it's my turn.
We are happy taking turns.

—Enid G. Thorson

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Have the first children give their
toys to the other children so the second
group can have a turn.

N. Sharing Pinwheels

Say: **There are other things
we can share too. We can share
pinwheels with each other.**

Give pinwheels or other toys to half
the children. Allow them to blow
on or swing the pinwheels while
they again sing "We Are Sharing." (See
above.) Have the first children give their
pinwheels to the other children so they
can have a turn.

You Need:

- ☐ pinwheels
or other
toys

O. Memory Verse

Say: **Jesus is happy when we
share with others. Sharing is one
way we can do good to all people.
Let's sing our memory verse song
again.** Sing the following words to the
tune of "Let Us Do Good to All Men"
(*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 265).

Let us do good to all people,
Let us do good,
Let us do good.
Let us do good to all people,
Let us do good.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Week 1

Loaves and Fish Basket

You Need:

- ☐ paper plate for each child
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ pattern for loaves and fishes (see pp. 69, 70)
- ☐ stapler

Before Sabbath, duplicate the pattern of loaves and fish found on pages 69, 70. Make enough copies so each child may have five "loaves" and two "fish." These may be cut out before Sabbath School time, or given to parents and/or adult helpers to cut out during Sabbath School.

In class on Sabbath, help the children or their families make a basket by cutting a paper plate in half. Cut off a half inch from around the outside of each half. These strips will serve as the handle. Assemble the basket as shown on page 69 by stapling the outside edges of the plate. Give each child five loaves and two fish to put into their basket.

Week 2

Sponge-painted Bread

You Need:

- ☐ reproducible pattern for loaf of bread (see p. 71)
- ☐ sponge shapes
- ☐ finger paints
- ☐ finger paint paper or plain white shelf paper
- ☐ baby wipes or paper towels and water
- ☐ scissors

Before Sabbath, copy the bread pattern (see page 71) onto finger paint paper or plain white shelf paper, one copy for each child. Cut shapes from a sponge.

During classtime, have adults cut out the loaf of bread. Allow the children to sponge-paint the loaf. (*Dip the sponge in finger paint, then make sponge prints on the paper.*)

Week 3

Bread to Share

You Need:

- ☐ loaf of bread pattern (see p. 72)
- ☐ craft sticks or tongue depressors
- ☐ glue
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ white construction paper

Before Sabbath copy the pattern onto white construction paper, enough for each child to have a copy. (See page 72.)

During classtime, have parents assist by cutting out the loaf of bread with the recipe and memory verse on the reverse side. ("Let us do good to all people" [Galatians 6:10, NIV]. (See page 72.)) Glue a craft stick or tongue depressor to the back. Children may take these home to share with an adult.

Week 4

Cereal Fish

You Need:

- ☐ reproducible fish pattern (see p. 68)
- ☐ glue
- ☐ round cereal pieces
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ white, yellow, or gray construction paper

Before Sabbath, copy the fish pattern on page 68 onto construction paper so each child will have a copy.

During classtime, have adults assist children. Cut out the paper fish. Spread glue on the fish. Allow the children to create scales by gluing down round cereal pieces.

Week 5 (or optional activity) Sharing Cup

You Need:

- ☐ paper cups
- ☐ chenille sticks
- ☐ stickers
- ☐ two small gifts

small gifts the child can take home and share with others.

Optional (*may be used as an option any week*)

You Need:

- ☐ reproducible pattern (see p. 73)
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue or needle and yarn
- ☐ felt or other cloth scraps

Create a basket out of a paper cup by poking a chenille stick through the sides near the top and fashioning it into a handle. Allow the children to decorate the “basket” with stickers. Fill it with two

Fish Finger Puppet

Before Sabbath, make enough copies of the pattern on page 73 so each child may have one.

During classtime, have adults help the children. Cut out two fish. Glue or sew the edges together, leaving the back part (the tail) open for the child to put on his or her finger.

Snack Center (Optional)

If you choose to have a snack center this month, we suggest using paper cups in which you may place fish-shaped crackers and/or round pieces of dry cereal. Water should also be available. (Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.)

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month’s Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Memory Verse

Before closing, sing the memory verse song again: “Let Us Do Good to All Men” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 265). Use the following words:

Let us do good to all people.
Let us do good.
Let us do good.
Let us do good to all people.
Let us do good.

—Janet Sage

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Closing

Say: **Jesus wants us to share with others, just as the little boy shared his lunch. Can you remember to share this week?** Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for the little boy who shared his five loaves and two fishes. Please make us willing to share with others too. Amen.**

Sing “Sabbath School Is Over” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 46).

STUDENT LESSON

Loaves and Fishes

References

Matthew 14:13–21; John 6:1–13;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 364–371

It's storytime. Lars likes to hear a story. The Bible tells us that Jesus told stories. Boys and girls liked His stories. Big people liked His stories too. People walked a long way to hear Jesus tell stories.

Memory Verse

"Let us do good
to all people"
(Galatians 6:10,
NIV).

The Message

I will share
with others.

Jesus is feeling tired. (*Yawn and stretch.*) "No more stories for now," Jesus says. (*Help your child echo, "No more stories."*) Jesus needs a rest from telling stories. So Jesus and His friends climb into a boat. (*Go sit in a different chair.*) Goodbye, Jesus. Take care! (*Wave goodbye.*)

Where is Jesus going? He is going to cross the lake.

See all the people. (*Point to the people.*) See all the boys and girls. (*Point to boys and girls.*) They want to be with Jesus. They want to hear Jesus tell stories. Hurry, little child. Bring your lunch. What is in little child's lunch basket? (*Count the loaves and fish.*) Come, little child. Let's go find Jesus.

Run, little child! (*Pick up your child or take his or her hand.*) Run after the people. Bring your lunch (*Grab a lunch box or basket.*), and let's find Jesus. Run around the lake. (*Jog around a table.*) Run to find Jesus!

See the little child. He sits and listens to Jesus. Jesus tells a story. All day Jesus tells stories. The little child is hungry. (*Rub tummy each time you say "hungry."*) Jesus is hungry. Everyone is hungry.

Is that your lunch, little child? (*Point to the lunch basket.*)

The day is late. Everyone is hungry. (*Rub tummy.*) "Send the people away," Jesus' friends say.

"No, the people are tired," Jesus says. (*Punctuate each word by pointing a finger.*) "The people are hungry. You feed them."

But Jesus' friends have no food.

"Here!" the little child says. "Take my food to Jesus." (*Child holds up lunch basket.*) Very good, little child! (*Hug child.*) Thank you for sharing your food.

Jesus is praying. (*Fold hands in*



prayer.) "Thank You, God, for this food. Thank You for this little child who has shared."

Do you share? Yes (*Nod vigorously.*), you are learning to share.

See Jesus. Jesus breaks the bread. (*Break a piece of bread.*) Jesus shares the bread. (*Share the bread.*) Everyone is sharing the bread.

Yum, yum, yum! (*Pretend to eat.*) This bread is fresh.

Yum, yum, yum! This is good food.

Thank You, Jesus. Thank You for the story and for the food.

Thank you, little child. Thank you for sharing your lunch.

The Bible says, "Let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:10, NIV).

Do & Say

1. Sing the memory verse song. (See page 60 in the Bible study guide.) Read the lesson story together.

2. Pick flowers from your garden and share them with a neighbor or friend.

3. Pack a special lunch and go to the park for a picnic. Talk about how Jesus used a little boy's lunch to feed a lot of people.

4. Build something with blocks. Take turns putting down blocks.

5. Make bread with your child. Bake it in small loaves and share some with a friend or neighbor. Share a smile with everyone you see today.

6. Make a fish rubbing by cutting a fish shape out of a piece of paper. Place it under another piece of paper and rub the top one with a crayon. Give it to someone special.

7. Share fish-shaped crackers with your child as you sing a sharing song.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day with your child. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

8. Look at the different types of bread at the grocery store. Try one that's new to you.

9. Invite a friend of your child's over to play. Practice sharing toys.

10. Plan a special meal and share it with friends.

11. Do the finger play "Jesus and the People." (See page 61 of the Bible study guide.)

12. Draw the outline of a fish on a piece of paper. Let your child add scales by dipping his or her finger in paint and pressing it on the paper.

13. Make fish by blowing up two balloons just a little and tying them off. Play with them in the bathtub.

14. Cut two pieces of bread in the shape of a fish. Share one with a friend. Make fish-shaped cookies and share them with a friend.

15. Visit a pet store or aquarium and look at fish. Make fishy shadows on the wall.