

The Loaves and the Fish

Make sure the children understand that this story about Jesus comes from the Bible.

Jesus and his friends were in the country. It was early in the morning. The sun was shining on the lake. It was very beautiful.

Jesus was sitting on a hill, talking with his friends.

More people came to listen to him.

Children ran up the hill to Jesus. Old people came up more slowly. Some people rode up the hill on donkeys.

Soon, there were people sitting everywhere on the hill. They stayed there all day, listening to Jesus.

It grew late. The sun was going down, and evening was coming on. It was time for everyone to go home. But, the people were very hungry. They had not brought food, and there were no places nearby to buy food. The children began to cry. Everyone was far from home.

Jesus looked at the people. He was worried about them. He knew that they were hungry. Jesus asked his friends, "How much food do we have?" One said, "We don't have any." Another said, "We don't even have the money to buy food for all these people." Another said, "Even if we had the money, there is no place near that has any food."

Another of the friends of Jesus said, "I saw a boy who has a few little fishes and some little loaves of bread."

Another friend said, "Well, that may feed the boy but certainly not all these people."

Jesus smiled. He knew what to do. He called the boy with the food. The boy gave Jesus what food he had. Then, Jesus blessed the food and said to his friends, "Pass out the loaves and fish to everyone."

The friends of Jesus were surprised, but they did what he told them to do. They began to pass out the food. They gave everyone enough to eat.

When everyone was finished eating, there were pieces of bread and fish left over. The friends of Jesus gathered up these pieces because Jesus did not want to waste the food. When all the pieces were collected, Jesus' friends were amazed to discover that they had much more food left than they had started with.

The people saw what had happened. They were excited. Everyone was talking about what Jesus had done. They all knew that Jesus fed them because he loved them.

Jesus raised his hand, and the people became silent. Everyone sat down. Then Jesus said, "Someday soon, I will give you something more wonderful. I will give you a more wonderful bread. I will give you myself as your food."

Based on *Matthew 14:13-21*