

Children's Sermon: Willing to Help

Preparation: Bring a small brown paper bag, five crackers in a small zip-lock bag, and two fish sticks in a small zip-lock bag. Place the fish sticks and crackers in the paper bag.

When the children are settled, ask them, "What do you think I have in this bag?" (Allow time for them to answer.) When someone says a lunch or something to eat, take the fish sticks and crackers out of the bag.

Ask them, "Is this enough food for a person to have for lunch?" (Allow time for them to answer.) Ask them, "Is this enough food to feed 5,000 people?" (Allow time for them to answer.)

Leader: "Yes, this would make a nice lunch for one person, but it would not be enough for 5,000 people. But the Bible tells us about a time when Jesus took a little boy's lunch and fed more than 5,000 people. The little boy had probably not planned to share his lunch with anybody. The lunch had been packed for him.

"While I share this story from the Bible, listen to find out what happened so 5,000 people were fed with the little boy's lunch.

"A large crowd of people had been following Jesus because He had been making sick people well. Jesus went up a mountain and sat down with his disciples. When He looked up and saw a large crowd of people coming toward Him, Jesus asked Philip, one of his disciples, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people." Philip answered, "It would take a lot of money to buy enough bread for each person to have a little."

"Another disciple, Andrew told Jesus, "There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what is that for so many people?"

"Jesus told His disciples to have the people sit on the ground. There were about 5,000 men in the crowd. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and gave the bread to the people. Jesus then took the fish, gave thanks, and gave the fish to the people. When all the people were full, Jesus told His disciples to collect all the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. The disciples collected the leftovers. They filled 12 baskets with the leftover bread.

Ask, "What happened so 5,000 people were fed with the boy's lunch?" (Allow time for the children to answer.)

"That is right. The boy gave his lunch to Jesus. The people were in need of something to eat. What the boy had was not enough to feed the people. But when the boy was willing to give what he had to Jesus, Jesus could feed all the people. We need to be willing to give the little that we have to Jesus so He can use it to meet the needs of people and help them know that God loves them.

"As we put our resources and other people's resources together and give them to God, we will be amazed at how He uses these resources to meet the needs of the people. We need to see the urgency of the need for people to know of God's love and give our resources to Jesus for Him to use."