

A Good Shepherd Story of Jesus

Feeding the 5000

Adapted by:
Brenda J. Stobbe

Illustrations by:
Jennifer Schoeneberg

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INTRODUCTION TO LENT

The season of Lent is another "waiting time". The Good Shepherd program makes it easy for children to see the time pass as they prepare to experience Easter.

The stage is set for Lent by using a series of seven cards. The first six cards are purple with one side showing a blackened silhouette and the seventh card is white with one side showing a blackened silhouette. Each week the cards are removed from the Lent basket and laid out in a straight line to your left with the solid side facing upward. As each week's story is shared, the card is turned over. The first week the purple card with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "Waving Palms" is revealed. The second week that card and the one with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "Zacchaeus" are revealed. And so on. Each week we begin with card one, asking the children to mentally recall each part of the Lent story, before telling the current week's story.

During the story response time, the children are encouraged to take the Lent basket and the story basket from the shelf and see if they can tell the story each week. By using the Lent cards and the story figures the children look ahead with great anticipation to the joy and wonder of Easter.

Each lesson in the Lent series tells you what story, story figures and Lent cards are to be used. During the "circle of light" be sure to place the appropriate bookmark representing each week's story in the Good Shepherd classroom Bible. This allows the children, non-readers as well as readers, to become familiar with where the Lent stories are found in the Bible.

During this time called Lent we learn a lot about Jesus, the stories he told and the things he did. We learn about his relationships with his friends and the people who followed him. The message of Lent is heard as we gradually begin to understand that Jesus showed himself to be the Messiah.

~1ATERIALS USED DURING LENT-- YEAR I

The medium Lent basket on the shelf contains:

- a set of 7 cards are used each week in the following order:
 - a purple card with palm branch silhouette
 - a purple card with Jesus and Zacchaeus silhouette
 - a purple card with basket silhouette
 - a purple card with chalice and paten silhouette
 - a purple card with cock (rooster) silhouette
 - a purple card with a bunch of grapes and vine silhouette
 - a white card with an empty tomb and cross silhouette

The story sets are used in the following order:

- Waving Palms basket
- Zacchaeus basket
- Feeding the 5000 basket
- The Last Supper basket
- Peter Denies Jesus basket
- Unfaithful Tenants parable box
- Crucifixion and Resurrection basket

Items needed from the worship shelf for Lent:

- chalice (for use with the Last Supper basket)"
- paten (for use with the Last Supper basket)*

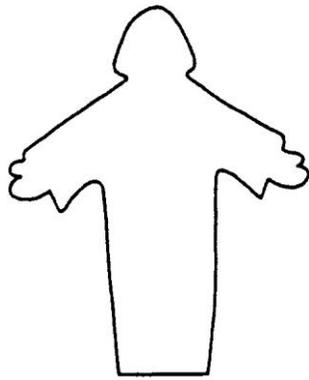
If communion is served during the "circle of light" the week The Last Supper story is presented you will need to purchase bread and grape juice.

* These items are not furnished for you. We recommend their use and hope you can acquire them locally.

FEEDING THE 5,000 MA TERIALS

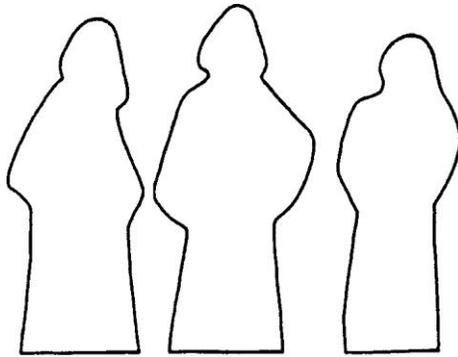
- large wicker basket to hold:
 - wooden Jesus figure
 - wooden boy *w/basket* figure
 - 3 wooden disciple figures
 - wooden boat
 - wooden "crowd" scene
 - blue felt sea
 - small basket to hold laminated loaves of bread and fish
 - 2 laminated fish
 - 5 laminated loaves of bread
 - 12 laminated baskets of left over food

- from worship shelf
 - Lent basket containing 7 cards



Jesus

Boy



Disciples

FEEDING THE 5,000 \fATTHEW 14:13-21

ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the Lent basket from the worship shelf. Get the Feeding the 5000 basket from its shelf. Bring them to the circle and sit down.

Allow 10-15 seconds of silence as you reverently touch the Lent cards or wooden figures to center yourself and the children.

Point to the worship shelf.

Remove the six purple cards from the Lent basket and lay them out with the plain purple side showing in a straight line starting to your outer left.

Remove the white card from the Lent basket and lay it next to the purple card closest to you with the plain white side showing.

Turn the first purple card over so the silhouette of the palm branch shows. Touch it reverently .

Turn the second purple card over so the silhouette of Jesus and Zacchaeus shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the third purple card over so the silhouette of the basket shows. Touch it reverently .

As you speak, slowly unfold the blue felt sea. Smooth it and place it directly in front of you.

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get these materials so you will know where to find them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

All the words to this story are inside of me. Will you make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

The worship cloth is purple and we know we are waiting. This is the third week of Lent.

These are Lent cards.

They will help us understand the stories we hear during Lent and make us ready for the time we are waiting for ... Easter.

The first week of Lent we learned about Jesus coming into the city of Jerusalem while the people waved palms.

The second week of Lent (last week) we learned how Jesus came for everyone-even Zacchaeus who had done bad things.

This third week of Lent we will hear about Jesus teaching and feeding 5000 people.

Once there was a man who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him.

'Move the Jesus figure in the boat and out into the water.

Place the wooden "crowd" scene to the right of the blue felt sea.

Bring the boat and Jesus figure to the right edge of the water and take Jesus out. Place him next to the water. Pantomime "touching" people.

Bring the three disciples near to Jesus.

Shake your head and look puzzled.

Bring one disciple figure and the boy figure next to Jesus.

Take out the small basket filled with the 5 laminated loaves and 2 laminated fish and bless it--pausing your hand reverently over it.

Pat your stomach as though you are full. Place the small basket with laminated loaves and fish back in the story basket.

Pantomime gathering food. Set out the laminated baskets in front of the disciples and the "crowd"; counting to 12.

And sometimes Jesus went away from the crowds of people to think ... and to pray.

One time the people of God followed Jesus when he went in a boat to think and pray.

And when Jesus saw them he loved them very much. He came out of the boat to be with them. And he made many sick people well.

Then it became evening. The disciples said to Jesus "Send the crowds away. Tell them to go to the village to buy food to eat."

But Jesus said, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat."

The disciples did not know how they could buy food for all the people.

One disciple told Jesus "There is only this little boy who has five loaves of bread and two fish, but that's not enough with so many to feed."

But Jesus said to the disciples, "Tell the people to sit down."

Then Jesus blessed the loaves and fish and gave them to all the people of God -- more than 5,000.

Everyone had plenty to eat.

When they were finished the disciples gathered up 12 baskets of leftovers.

Hold your hands up in front of your chest with palms open and forward as a sign of amazement.

And the people of God were amazed at what happened.

WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder what the little boy thought when everyone began to eat his lunch?

I wonder how the bread and fish tasted?

I wonder what they did with all the leftover food?

Place the wooden figures, folded felt piece, small basket and laminated items into the story basket.

Watch carefully how I put these materials away so you will know how to use them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

Pick up the first three Lent cards and place them in the Lent basket.

This is the third week of Lent.

Pickup the remaining three purple cards and then pickup the white card and place them in the Lent basket.

We will wait and make ourselves ready for four more weeks, then it will be Easter.

After speaking, carry the story basket back to its shelf and the Lent basket back to the worship shelf. Return to the circle.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

Be sure ALL children have had a chance to choose their work before dismissing the children.

I wonder what you will make your work today? Let's go around the circle and choose what each of us will do.

FEEDING THE 5,000 ••• TEACHER HELPS

This story has special meaning to children because it was the food of a little boy that was blessed by Jesus to feed so many. I often tell children, while they are doing their work after the story, that this little boy's lunch was a first century version of the peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Seriously though, the food that Jesus multiplied in this story was a very common lunch for ordinary people. The fish were no doubt dried fish and the loaves were probably barley cakes, more the size of biscuits, than loaves that we perceive.

The setting of this story is important. Jesus was tired and had desired to go away to refresh himself. But by this time in his ministry Jesus had a large following. The people who watched him get into the boat knew where he was headed. Their needs for healing, both physical and spiritual, were great. And they ran around the lake to meet him on the other side. When Jesus saw the people he couldn't turn his back on them. The scriptures say, "he had compassion on them" (Matthew 14: 14). Again we find that Jesus performed miracles, not to prove that he was the Messiah, but because of his deep love for the people of God.

In the book of Matthew this story comes immediately after the story of the death of John the Baptizer and just before the story of Jesus walking on the water. It is the miracle for thousands to see in the face of the death of a great prophet, and yet there is another wonder for the disciples alone when Jesus walks on the sea.

One of my favorite understandings of the kingdom of God is there will always be more food than all of the people of God need. Jesus understood that the people need to eat as well as hear the word of God interpreted and taught.

The wondering questions ask primarily about the food. What did the little boy think? According to Matthew the child had not offered his food ... he may have, but that is not recorded. Was he amazed, frightened, excited?

The second question asks how the bread tasted. You'll probably hear, "good" as a response. Think about how many children you know who don't like bread. Very few. Some of them will have experienced the bread from the Exodus story's unleavened bread and some from the bread we make in Good Shepherd during the story of "The Leaven". Some will think of toast, others of garlic bread. The idea is to give the children a common experience with the people who sat down on the hillside to eat.

The final question will most likely provoke the most answers. Matthew doesn't say the leftovers were given to the poor, or that everyone had some to take home the next day. Encourage the amazement that there was more than they needed ... that is the wideness of God's love.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

The little boy in this story believed he had something worthwhile to offer. The disciples laughed at the little he had to offer. Can you think of a time when you tried to offer something to help and an adult belittled what you tried to do?

Jesus told the disciples to feed the people without him. They didn't believe they could do that. When is the last time you were asked to do something that you didn't believe you could do? How did it turn out?

I've often wondered if anyone else who came to see Jesus that day had packed a lunch? If *so*, why were they complaining about being hungry? If not, why did they stay all day? What do you think?