

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR

Sunday 2nd August 2020

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Jesus told lots of stories to the people - we have looked at some of them over the last few weeks. They were about things that the people would understand but Jesus also included a hidden message in the story - sometimes He had to explain them to the people.

Jesus also performed miracles.

A MIRACLE is when something amazing happens and we cannot explain using science. It is supernatural - beyond our understanding - only possible because God gave Jesus the power to do them.

Jesus was able to heal people who were sick or injured, to calm a storm when it got too rough, to walk on top of the water, and He even brought people back to life who had died!

Today we're going to read about how Jesus managed to feed 5,000 men (plus women and children) with just a young boy's lunch of 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes! And still had some left over! How awesome is that?

Getting Started

You will need someone else to help with this trick and they might need a calculator and possibly a piece of paper and pen.

Ask your friend, brother, sister or parent to think of a number between 1 and 9. Then ask them to double it and then add 6 - they can use the calculator if they want.

They need to divide that number by 2 and take away the number they first thought of.

Think about it for a moment and then tell your friend that the answer is 3! (if it isn't, they have made a mistake somewhere, so let them try again)



Here's another one (slightly harder)

Ask your friend, brother, sister or parent to think of a 3 digit number where all the digits are the same (like 777 or 222).

Ask them to add up the digits ($7+7+7$ or $2+2+2$) to get a smaller number.

Tell them to divide the big number they first thought of by the smaller number - this is where they will need the calculator!

Think about it for a moment and then tell your friend that the answer is 37!

Your friend will probably be amazed at how you managed to know what they were thinking but there is nothing magical about these tricks. They can both be explained using maths.

But what Jesus did could not be explained using science or maths or nature - what Jesus performed were MIRACLES.

The Story

Jesus and His disciples had just heard about a friend who had died and they wanted to be by themselves a while. They climbed into Peter's boat and set off across the lake. But as they drew nearer to land they saw that the quiet spot they had chosen was crowded with people, all waiting to see Jesus. They had seen the boat leave and raced around the shore, arriving ahead of them.

The disciples groaned with disappointment but Jesus looked with pity at the people. They were in such need of His loving care. All day He taught them but, when evening came, the disciples had had enough.

"Send the crowds away, Master," they begged. "There are no shops here and they'll have to hurry if they are to get to the town in time to buy food."

"Why don't you give them a meal?" Jesus asked.

"However could we do that?" Philip replied. "It would cost a lot of money to feed this number. There must be at least five thousand men, not counting their wives and families."

Then Andrew spoke. "There is a boy here who has offered Jesus his lunch. But it's only two little fish and five small bread rolls, so what good is that?"

Jesus did not answer Andrew's question. "Sort the people into groups of fifty," He told the disciples. "Then get them to sit on the grass."

As the disciples went off to organise everyone, Jesus turned to the boy, who was waiting shyly. "Thank you," He said with a smile, as He took the small lunch from him.

When everyone was ready and waiting, Jesus held up the picnic food for all to see and thanked God for it.

No one understood what happened next. They only knew that the bread and fish that Jesus handed to each disciple to give to the crowd was more than enough for all of them. Even the children had to say, "I'm full!" at last. But how good it had tasted!

Each of the twelve disciples was left with a basket full of food that had not been needed. "That will do for our next meal," Jesus said.

How wonderful their master was! He could satisfy their deepest needs, as well as seeing that they had enough food to eat!



Thinking About It

Jesus could have spoken a simple word, and food would have appeared. Alternatively, He could have just thought about it, and the hunger of all the people would have been instantly satisfied. Maybe some people think He should have done it that way - it certainly would have been faster. But Jesus didn't. Instead, He used a young boy's small lunch as part of His miracle.

God often works in this way so we can learn that He can provide for our deepest needs and hungers. He wants us to know that He will provide even when it may not seem possible to us.

We can also learn that when we give what we have to God, He can take it, bless it and do more than we could ever imagine, like the boy's small lunch. Even though we may not have very much, a little becomes much when it is placed in God's hands.

Activity

Find a piece of piece paper from a magazine or newspaper and a pair of scissors. If you are young, you may want to have an adult with you.

How many corners can you count on your piece of paper? Probably four.

What if you want to give someone a corner of your paper? Cut off a corner of the paper, and hand it to someone else.

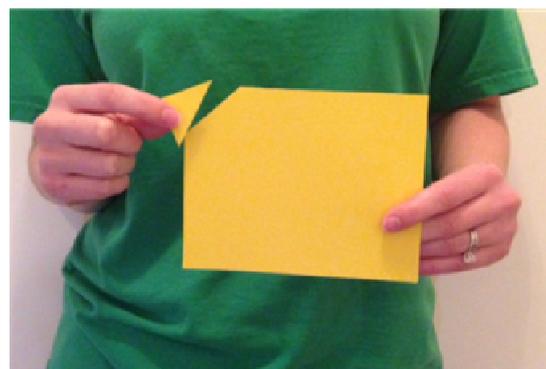
You have now given away a corner. How many corners do you have left? Five? But didn't you have four and then give one away? How can you now have 5?

Try cutting off another corner and then count how many you have left.

How many times can you do that and how many corners do you end up with?

The more times Jesus divided the bread and fish, the more he had to give away.

PS Please remember tidy up at the end, otherwise you'll be finding corners for a long time!



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all your wonderful gifts. Please help us to think of the needs of others and encourage us to share what we have with them.

Amen.