

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Contribution Relay
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Food Basket
Communities
Welcome Trivia
Loving God, Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Pencils | Construction Paper | Ribbon | Paper punch | Markers

Gather: TV/DVD player | Two baskets | Toy food | Whistle

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Two baskets | Nonperishable food items | LED candle | Tablecloth | Canned goods

Bless: LED candle | Tablecloth | Canned goods

Before You Teach

This week we are focusing on Jesus feeding the five thousand. This story is important because it highlights the role that children play in the community. Children often feel less powerful in their communities because they are dependent on adults; they are still learning; and they are physically smaller than adults. However, none of these factors make children any less important to the well-being of a community. In fact, in the story that we're exploring today, children play a very important role in caring for the community.

In today's Bible story, Jesus is being followed by a large crowd. His disciples seem to think the crowd is too big to feed; however, Jesus already knows what he will do. Andrew, a disciple, has indicated that there is a child present who has five barley loaves and two fish. Jesus tells the disciples to have the people sit down. He takes the bread, gives thanks, and distributes it. He does the same thing with the fish. Everyone present has as much as they want to eat, and afterward the disciples gather up twelve baskets of leftovers so that nothing will be wasted. (The twelve baskets mentioned here are the first hint of Jesus having twelve chosen disciples.) When the people see what Jesus has done, they truly believe that he is a prophet. Jesus realizes that they are about to ask him to be their king, so he goes away alone to a mountain.

You will want children to come away from the story recognizing that it was what a child provided that Jesus used to perform the miracle of feeding the five thousand people. You'll want children to feel like what they have and what they contribute to the community is important, whether that is at school, at home, at church, or in the larger community. This week, we will explore ways to contribute to the community such as food donations and making supportive cards, and we'll work on fostering in each child a sense that their individual contribution to the community is important.

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of "Attendance Chart" (Class Kit—pp. 15 & 18, or 16–17) at eye level.

- Play "All People Are God's People" (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the "Attendance Chart." For the "Community Attendance Chart," the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #5.

SAY: Our Bible story is about children contributing.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 5 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "After the Meal" (Activity Sheets—p. 11). Let the children complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the "Loaves and Fish" activity (Activity Sheets—p. 12).

SAY: Today's Bible story reminds us that children make very important contributions to their communities.

OR

B—Contribution Relay (Game)

Before class: Gather two baskets, toy food, and a whistle.

SAY: In our Bible story, a child contributed food that Jesus used to feed many people. Today, we're going to have a relay in which you will pretend to bring food to feed your classmates.

- Divide the class into two teams and give each team a basket. Explain the game to the children.
 - Set up a table with the toy food items on it on one side of the room (a pile for each team). Have the teams gather at tables on the opposite side of the room. Have the whistle on hand.
 - A child from each team will move quickly across the room and fill his or her basket with as much food as possible before you blow the whistle. He or she will bring the food back to his or her team who will pretend to eat it and then gather up the "leftovers" in the basket (as much as possible before you blow the whistle). Another child will take the food back across the room, and return to his or her team with the basket. Repeat until each child has had a turn. The winner is the team with the most "leftovers" in their pile at the end.
-

Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring chairs or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a useful way to help children easily move from one activity to the next.*



5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)

EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- When have you helped with a meal?
 - What kind of food did you help make and with whom did you make it?
 - What did you like or not like about preparing food?
-

Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—John 6:1-15).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 5.

SAY: Today, we're discussing a story about a child contributing a small amount of food that Jesus used to feed a whole community.

ASK: What can you do for your community?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out "Children Contribute" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 5).
-

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the "Unit 1 Bible Verse" poster (Class Kit—pp. 5 & 28).

- Read the memory verse to the children: The community of believers was one in heart and mind (Acts 4:32).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
 - Have the children, one at a time, each say the verse to another person and join hands with that person. Continue until all are holding hands.
 - Have all of the children repeat the verse one more time together.
-

Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



RESPOND

Food Basket (Service)

Before class: Gather one or two baskets, a few nonperishable food items (enough to make one or two baskets, depending on your class size), some decorative ribbon, construction paper, markers, and a paper punch. Identify an individual or organization to whom you can give the basket.

SAY: Our story today is about Jesus stretching a child's food to feed many people. Today, there are many people who have little to eat and who have to work hard to stretch what they have. We're going to try to help some people out by making a basket with some food items.

- Let the children sort and arrange the food items for each basket and fill the baskets.
- Assist the children with coming up with something nice to say in a handwritten note. Let the children write the note, and attach it to the basket handle, using the ribbon and paper punch.

ASK: How do you feel about helping another person this way?

OR

Communities Welcome Review Trivia (Activity)

Before class: Photocopy "Communities Welcome Review Trivia" (Leader—p. 36) for each child. Gather enough Bibles and pencils for each child.

SAY: We are coming to the end of our lessons about how communities are welcoming. Let's review. You may look up the Scriptures in your Bibles if you need to.

- Give each child a copy of the activity and a pencil. Have Bibles on hand.
- Let the children complete the activity. Then go over the answers together.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Display the "Missions" poster (Class Kit—p. 2). Gather construction paper and crayons.

- Allow the children to make cards for the children of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.

SAY: We are contributing support for the children of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.

- Send the cards to:

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre

P.O. Box 19764 – East Jerusalem 91197

Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth, enough canned goods for each child to have one can, and an LED candle.

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 1 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about ways that children can contribute to a community. Let’s learn to sign a verse about being of one heart and mind as a community.

- Gather the children around the “Bible Verse Signs” poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
- Teach the children to sign the verse.
- Let each child practice signing the verse to another child.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for letting us be a part of a community where children are valuable. Amen.

Praising

SAY: Today, we learned about how Jesus used a child’s meal to feed many people. The child who provided his food contributed to the whole community. Each of you contributes to the community as well. Let’s offer God praise as we show appreciation for each other’s contributions.

- Have the children go around the room and say, “I praise God for your contributions” to as many children as possible, followed by a thumbs-up.
-

Blessing

TIP: *If there is time, consider arranging a “mini food drive” and having the children bring in their own canned goods.*

SAY: Today, we learned that children can contribute to community. We’re going to visit our church food pantry today and learn about how it works. We’re also going to make a contribution. Before we go, let’s say a prayer.

- Gather the children around the worship center and give each child a canned good. Call each child to you by name. As each child comes forward, let him or her place his or her can on the table and say the following prayer.

PRAY: God, thank you for giving each of us the ability to contribute. We pray that you will bless (insert child’s name)’s contribution to be a blessing to others in the community, and we pray that you will bless (insert child’s name) as well. Amen.

- Let each child who is able carry his or her canned good to the food pantry to be donated.
-

At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned today about how children contribute to the community? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets, Session 5, and the Unit 1 Song Sheet home with each child.

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind." (Acts 4:32)



Communities Welcome Review Trivia

Bible hints: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; John 4:1-42;
Mark 10:46-52; Luke 19:1-10; John 6:1-15

TRIVIA

1. Fill in the blank: Christ is like the human _____.
2. Fill in the blank: Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a _____.
3. Fill in the blank: When the Samaritan woman asked Jesus where to worship, Jesus explained that the place was not important. What was important was worshipping in _____ and in _____.
4. What was the name of the blind man who asked Jesus to help him see when Jesus and his followers were in Jericho?
5. Fill in the blank: Jesus told the blind man that his _____ had healed him.
6. What was Zacchaeus's job?
7. What kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb so that he could get a better look at Jesus?
8. Why did Jesus say Zacchaeus needed to come down from the tree?
9. How many people did Jesus feed with one child's lunch?
10. How many baskets of leftovers were collected after Jesus fed the crowd with a child's lunch?