

Children's Message: "God Can Use Anything"

Optional Materials: Some kind of small food item: Crackers, rolls, Goldfish, etc.; paper bag or lunch box

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus Feeds the 5000

Message Note: As with most children's messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing, your audience and the kids' needs. Use your judgment and ideas to serve the kids best.

Greet children, carrying a lunch bag or lunch box.

Hello! Do you ever get hungry? I sure do, especially if it happens to be time for breakfast... or lunch, or dinner...come to think of it, I think anytime is a great time for a snack! Well, I have a little something in this bag, and maybe I can share it with all of you. Let's see. (Count heads, if multiple children are present) I'm not sure if this will go all the way around our group. I have (pull out a very small snack) ...uh-oh, I just have a few crackers here. I would have to split these into pretty tiny pieces to give you all just a bite. But if I had more, maybe we could enjoy a little snack....

That's what happens in our Bible story today, and it has to do with food. Jesus was teaching, and there was a big group of people who had come to listen to what He had to say. Well, it happened to be dinnertime, and the disciples brought it to His attention that the crowd might be getting hungry. Jesus told the disciples to find something for the people to eat! That seemed a bit astonishing. There were more than 5,000 people present, and to give everyone even a tiny bite of food would cost more than any of them had.

All the disciples could find was one boy who happened to have a lunch with him, and his lunch only consisted of five loaves of bread and two fish. But the disciples brought this kid to Jesus, and the boy shared his lunch. Jesus prayed over it and had the disciples start passing the food around. Somehow, that one little lunch didn't run out. In fact, it fed everyone in the crowd, with food left over!

How did Jesus do that? Well, we know that Jesus could have done anything, so for us it shouldn't be too surprising. But he didn't have to use that little lunch, he was God. He could have produced food out of a couple of rocks. Yet, he took what someone had, and out of compassion for the people, He used it to feed the multitude. All the boy had to do was be willing to be used and give what he had. We give to Him whatever we might have, and He can put it to work to do amazing things!

There are people in this church (point to people) who give what they have to the Mountain State Mission Offering, and God takes those gifts and does amazing things with them.

(All audience and kids can participate) Raise your hand if you have attended a children's rally. ... gone to Camp Cowen ... visited Parchment Valley ... attended a Junior High or Senior High Convention, ... joined a Bobby Woods School of Christian Studies Class ... attended the Annual Training Event. All these events and many more are made possible by the gifts given, and God is doing amazing things with those gifts.

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you for using whatever we have for your will. Please help us to trust in You and let our lives be used for Your glory. We know you will always provide and make great things out of small things. Thank you for doing amazing things with our gifts. Thank you for your love. We love you, God! In Jesus' name, Amen!