

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' disciples had been working hard, teaching people and healing them. Jesus called them to go away with Him to a desolate place so they could rest. By now, Jesus' popularity was so great that finding a place to be alone was difficult. When Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee, the crowd of people were already waiting for them on the other side.

2 Jesus saw the crowds. He wasn't frustrated or angry. He didn't tell them to go away. Instead, He had compassion on them because they were lost—like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks and saves the lost. (See Luke 19:10; John 10:14.)

The miracle Jesus performed that evening—feeding 5,000 men plus women and children—is the only miracle during Jesus' earthly ministry that is recorded in all four Gospels. God was clearly at work. The same God who provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness multiplied loaves and fish to satisfy the crowd.

But Jesus' didn't intend only to meet the people's physical needs. He came to satisfy their spiritual needs as well. In John 6:35, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." He said that no one who comes to Him will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Him will ever be thirsty again.

Jesus is the bread that came down from heaven. (See John 6:41.) God provided His Son as the perfect sacrifice to take away our sin. At the first Lord's Supper, Jesus broke bread—a symbol of His death on the cross. (See Matt. 26:26.)

As you teach kids this Bible story, help them know that God can and will provide for our needs. Kids can trust Him for their "daily bread." (See Matt. 6:11.) God met our greatest need in giving us salvation through Jesus. Will He not graciously give us all things? (Rom. 8:32)

Older Kids BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Has the Power to Provide

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17;
John 6:1-14

Big Picture Question: Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Small Group Opening

Welcome time

Activity page (5 minutes)

Session starter (10 minutes)

Large Group Leader

Countdown

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

Timeline map (1 minute)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Key passage (5 minutes)

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

Sing (3 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes)

Small Group Leader

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Journal and prayer (5 minutes) Additional suggestions for specific groups are available at gospelproject.com/kids/additional-resources. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus Has the Power to Provide

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

Jesus' disciples had been hard at work. They had been healing people and teaching them. So many people came and went that the disciples did not even have time to eat! **So Jesus said to them, "Come with me. Let's go to a quiet place where we can be alone and get some rest."**

Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee, but many people saw them leaving. The people traveled by foot, and they ran ahead of Jesus. **When Jesus and His disciples got to the shore, the people were already there waiting for them.** Jesus saw the crowd and He cared about them because they were like sheep who needed a shepherd. **So Jesus taught the people many things about God's kingdom, and He healed people who were sick.**

By this time, it was late in the day. Jesus' disciples came to Him and said, "We are out in the middle of nowhere, and it's getting late. Tell the people to go away so they can go to the farms and villages to buy themselves something to eat."

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

Jesus' disciples were confused. "We can't feed this many people," they said. "It would cost a whole year's pay to buy enough bread for them to eat."

Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have? Go look."

So Jesus' disciples counted the loaves of bread. They said, "A boy is here who has five loaves of bread and two fish, but we are going to need more than that."

Jesus told the disciples to instruct everyone to sit down. So all the people sat down in big groups on the grass.

Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked up to heaven, and then He blessed the bread. He broke it into pieces and gave it to the disciples. He also divided up the fish. The disciples passed out the food to the people, and everyone ate until they were full.

Then Jesus told the disciples to collect any leftover food. The disciples collected 12 baskets full of pieces of bread and fish. Jesus fed about 5,000 men that day, plus women and children. The people saw the miracle Jesus had done, and they said, “This must really be the Prophet who was to come into the world!”

Christ Connection: By feeding the 5,000, Jesus provided for the physical needs of the crowd. The next day, Jesus called Himself the bread of life. (John 6:35) Only Jesus is able to satisfy our souls by providing forgiveness, friendship with God, and eternal life.

Want to discover God’s Word? Get *Bible Express*!

Invite kids to check out today’s devotional to discover more about Jesus’ teachings near the Jordan, near where He fed the 5,000. Jesus wanted the people to know how their sins could be forgiven! Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.



Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus Has the Power to Provide

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17;
John 6:1-14

Big Picture Question: Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

Prompt kids to discuss the difference between needs and wants. What types of things do kids need? What types of things do they want?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Fish and Loaves” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Invite kids to work individually to complete the activity page “Fish and Loaves.” Kids will count how many men Jesus fed. Each fish represents 500 men, and each loaf represents 100 men. Help kids add up the numbers.

Say • How many men did Jesus feed? (5,000) Wow!

Feeding that many people would require a lot of planning and food. In today’s Bible story, we’ll hear just how Jesus made this happen.

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: I’m so hungry ...

Instruct kids to sit in a circle to play a memory game. Guide



the first player to begin the game by saying, “I’m so hungry, I could eat ...” Then he should say something he likes to eat: pizza, for example. The next player will continue, adding her own food and repeating the previous players’ food choice. “I’m so hungry, I could eat grapes and pizza.” The third player will add a food and repeat the choices of the two previous players.

Continue around the circle so everyone gets a turn. If a kid struggles to remember a player’s food choice, allow the player to remind him. Consider making up hand motions for each food to help kids remember the choices.

Say • In today’s Bible story, a very large group of people were hungry—more than 5,000 people! Think about all the food you would need to feed that many people!

Option 2: Care items

Form groups of three or four kids. For each group, write on an index card something kids might take care of themselves. Examples: *cat, dog, hamster, baby, yourself, plant*, and so forth.

Allow one player from each group to choose an index card. Give each group paper and markers. Groups should list items they would need to care for their living things. If a group has *dog*, players might list *leash, bone, collar*, and *tennis ball*.

Call for groups to take turns reading their lists. Challenge the rest of the kids to guess what living thing each group could take care of with the listed items.

Say • Every living thing requires certain things to survive. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a time Jesus provided for the needs of thousands of people!

Transition to large group

Jesus Is Powerful

- index cards
- markers
- paper

Large Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Has the Power to Provide

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17;
John 6:1-14

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• bucket

[Large Group Leader enters wearing khaki shorts or pants and a colorful shirt. Leader carries a small bucket.]

Leader •Hello, everyone! It’s me, [*your name*]. Welcome back to the beach! I brought my bucket to collect any treasures I find on the shore. You can find all sorts of treasures at the beach—seashells, driftwood, neat-looking rocks ... but we can hunt for treasures later. First, I want you to hear today’s Bible story!

Timeline map (1 minute)

• Timeline Map

Use the timeline map to point out and review the previous Bible story, “Jesus Has Power Over Creation.”

Leader •Who can tell me about the Bible story we heard last time? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Yes! Jesus’ disciples were afraid of the storm on the Sea of Galilee. They asked Jesus for help, and He calmed the wind and the waves

just by speaking! Jesus has power over creation! *Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.*

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • Today we are going to hear another Bible story about Jesus' power! It's about a time thousands of hungry people had nothing to eat. What a dilemma! Listen carefully and see if you can answer our big picture question: *Who will always take care of us?*

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; or John 6:1-14. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Has the Power to Provide."

Leader • Whew! Have you ever been playing or working really hard and just needed to get away to rest? That's why I'm here at the beach—a vacation! Jesus' disciples needed a vacation. They had been working so hard healing and teaching people that they didn't even have time to stop and eat.

So Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. But people followed them! People actually ran along the shore and met them on the other side.

I don't know about you, but I would feel a little frustrated if people bothered me when I was on vacation. But Jesus wasn't frustrated! He saw the people, and He cared about them. Jesus didn't tell the people to go away; He taught them about God, and He healed people.

After awhile, Jesus' disciples told Jesus to tell the people to go away and find something to eat. No food was available where they were, but the people could go to the

- "Jesus Has the Power to Provide" video
- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

farms and villages nearby and buy something to eat.

Did Jesus tell the people to go away and come back after dinner? No! He told His disciples to give the people food. But there were 5,000 men to feed, and that didn't even include all the women and children! How would the disciples feed that many people? That much food would cost a fortune!

What Jesus did next was amazing. He took a boy's lunch—five loaves of bread and two fish—and He blessed it. Then He broke it into pieces, and the disciples gave the food to the people. Everyone ate until he was full! And there were even leftovers! The disciples collected 12 baskets full of pieces of bread and fish. It was a miracle!

You know, I love this Bible story because it reminds me that God always takes care of us. Hey! That's our big picture question! ***Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.***

Receiving food when you are hungry is great, but everyone has a need that is much bigger than physical hunger. We all sin, and our sin separates us from God. Jesus gives us what we need the most—a right relationship with God. He took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us forgiveness, friendship with God, and eternal life.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

• Bible

Using Scripture and the guide provided, explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Tell kids how they can respond, and provide counselors to speak with each kid individually. Guide counselors to use open-ended questions to allow kids to determine the direction of the conversation.

Encourage kids to ask their parents or other adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- “Everlasting Life” song

Key passage (5 minutes)

Display the key passage poster and lead kids to read the passage aloud together.

Leader •Who said these words? (*Jesus*) With whom was Jesus talking? (*Martha, the sister of Lazarus*)

We are going to hear their story later, but this verse reminds me of something else Jesus said. Shortly after Jesus fed the 5,000, He said, “I am the Bread of life.” He said that people who come to Him will never be hungry again. In our key passage, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” He said that people who believe in Him will never die—ever.

Jesus wasn’t talking about physical hunger or physical death. I’ll need a sandwich later today, and someday my body will wear out. Because I trust in Jesus, He satisfies my hunger to know God and He gives me eternal life! Do you believe that? Let’s sing!

Lead boys and girls in singing “Everlasting Life.”

Discussion starter video (5 minutes)

- “Unit 29 Session 2” discussion starter video

Leader •Have you ever found yourself in a situation that seemed impossible? Has an impossible situation ever worked out, even though you thought it wouldn’t? Think about that while you watch this video.

Show the “Unit 29 Session 2” video. Then invite kids to talk about situations or needs that seem impossible.

Point out that, to the disciples, feeding thousands of people seemed impossible, but nothing is impossible for God. Explain that God does not always give us everything we think we need, but He always takes care of us.

Leader •*Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.*

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- “Something Beautiful” song

Sing (3 minutes)

Leader • I love knowing that *God can and will provide for our needs!* He is so good! Relaxing on vacation is much easier when I know that God is in control. I don’t have to worry because I know God will take care of me. That makes me want to sing! Will you sing with me? Encourage kids to stand and sing “Something Beautiful” together.

Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader • Thank you for being such great listeners today. I’m off to search for seashells and other treasures. Before you go to small groups, let’s pray.

Lord God, You are more powerful than anything or anyone. Thank You for the Bible so we can learn about You. God, we confess that we worry about things we need. Help us to trust You for everything because You can and will provide for our needs. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Has the Power to Provide

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17;
John 6:1-14

Big Picture Question: Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster

Display the key passage poster. Guide kids to read the passage aloud together. Invite kids to make up motions for key words from the passage to help them memorize it. For example, kids might lift their hands over their heads for the word *resurrection* and shake their heads for the phrase *will [shall] never die*. Let kids practice their actions several times as they say the key passage.

Say • Great work, everyone! Jesus said something so important here. He said that He is the resurrection and the life. You see, for people who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, life doesn't end with physical death. Jesus gives believes eternal life, and those who trust Him will live with Him forever.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- paper
- marker
- tape

Write the following references on separate sheets of paper. Post one sign in each corner of the room: *Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14*. Ask kids which division of the Bible these books are in. (*Gospels*) Explain that all four Gospels tell

about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Some of the stories about Jesus' life are in more than one of the Gospels. Some stories are in all four! The stories are not exactly the same because Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote from different perspectives.

Make sure everyone has a Bible. Invite each kid to move to a corner of his own choosing and to find the posted reference in the Bible. Review the timeline in the small group visual pack. Retell or review the Bible story in your own words, or use the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Lead kids to answer the following review questions about the Bible story. Note that not every Gospel will contain the answer to every question. After a couple of questions, encourage kids to move to a different corner to reference a different passage.

1. Why did Jesus and His disciples go away?
(to be alone and rest; Matt. 14:13; Mark 6:31; Luke 9:10)
2. Who followed Jesus to the other side of the sea?
(a huge crowd; Matt. 14:13; Mark 6:34; Luke 9:11; John 6:2)
3. What did the crowds need? *(food; Matt. 14:15; Mark 6:36; Luke 9:12; John 6:5)*
4. How much food did the disciples find? *(five loaves and two fish; Matt. 14:17; Mark 6:38; Luke 9:13; John 6:9)*
5. How many men were in the crowd? *(about 5,000; Matt. 14:21; Mark 6:44; Luke 9:14; John 6:10)*
6. How many baskets of food were left over? *(12 baskets; Matt. 14: 20; Mark 6:43; Luke 9:17; John 6:13)*
7. What did the people say about Jesus? *(“This really is the Prophet who was to come into the world!” John 6:14)*

8. ***Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.***

If you choose to review with boys and girls how to become a Christian, explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- **God rules.** God created and is in charge of everything. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16-17)
- **We sinned.** Since Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
- **God provided.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
- **Jesus gives.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so we can be welcomed into God's family. (Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- **We respond.** Believe that Jesus alone saves you. Repent. Tell God that your faith is in Jesus. (Rom. 10:9-10,13)



- construction paper
- scissors
- marker
- drinking straws

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Flying fish relay

Provide construction paper and scissors. Instruct each kid to cut out fish shapes. The group needs a total of 15 fish shapes. Lead kids to write each word of the big picture question and answer on separate fish.

Guide kids to mix up the fish and line them up on one side of the table. Give each kid a drinking straw. When you say go, kids should work together to blow all the fish off the other side of the table. Then they should pick up the fish and arrange them in order to form the big picture question and answer. As time allows, play several rounds.

Say • How many fish did Jesus use to feed the crowd in

today's Bible story? (*two*) How many people did Jesus feed? (*5,000 men plus women and children*)

• ***Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.***

Option 2: Fish and loaves snack

- Allergy Alert
- fish-shaped crackers
- rye chips or pretzel sticks
- napkins
- hand sanitizer

Guide kids to wash or sanitize their hands and be seated for a snack. Choose two volunteers to pass out napkins. Give each kid a handful of fish-shaped crackers and rye chips or pretzel sticks. Ask them what the snack reminds them of from today's Bible story. (*the fish and bread Jesus gave to the crowd of people*)

As kids enjoy the snack, ask if they remember a time in the Old Testament when God gave His people bread. Remind them of God providing manna in the wilderness. Read Exodus 16:2-3,11-15 to review. Point out that physical bread kept God's people physically alive.

Read John 6:33-35. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." He said He came to give life to the world.

Say • Jesus gives us something we need more than food—salvation from sin and eternal life.

• ***Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.***

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- pencils
- journals
- Bibles
- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- "The Power to Provide" activity page, 1 per kid

Encourage kids to write about or draw pictures in their journals of things they can trust God to provide for them. Prompt them to pray and ask God to provide for their needs.

Invite kids to share prayer requests. Close the group in prayer, or allow a couple volunteers to close the group in prayer. As time allows, lead kids to review the big picture question and answer by completing the activity page "The Power to Provide."

Jesus is Powerful

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Session 1: Jesus Has Power Over Creation

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Session 2: Jesus Has the Power to Provide

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44;

Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

Session 3: Jesus Has Power Over Sickness

Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52;

Luke 18:35-43

Session 4: Jesus Has Power Over Evil

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Session 5: Jesus Has Power Over Death

John 11:1-44



“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die — ever.”

John 11:25-26

**I am the resurrection, and
the life: he that believeth
in me, though he were
dead, yet shall he live:
And whosoever liveth
and believeth in me shall
never die.**

John 11:25-26

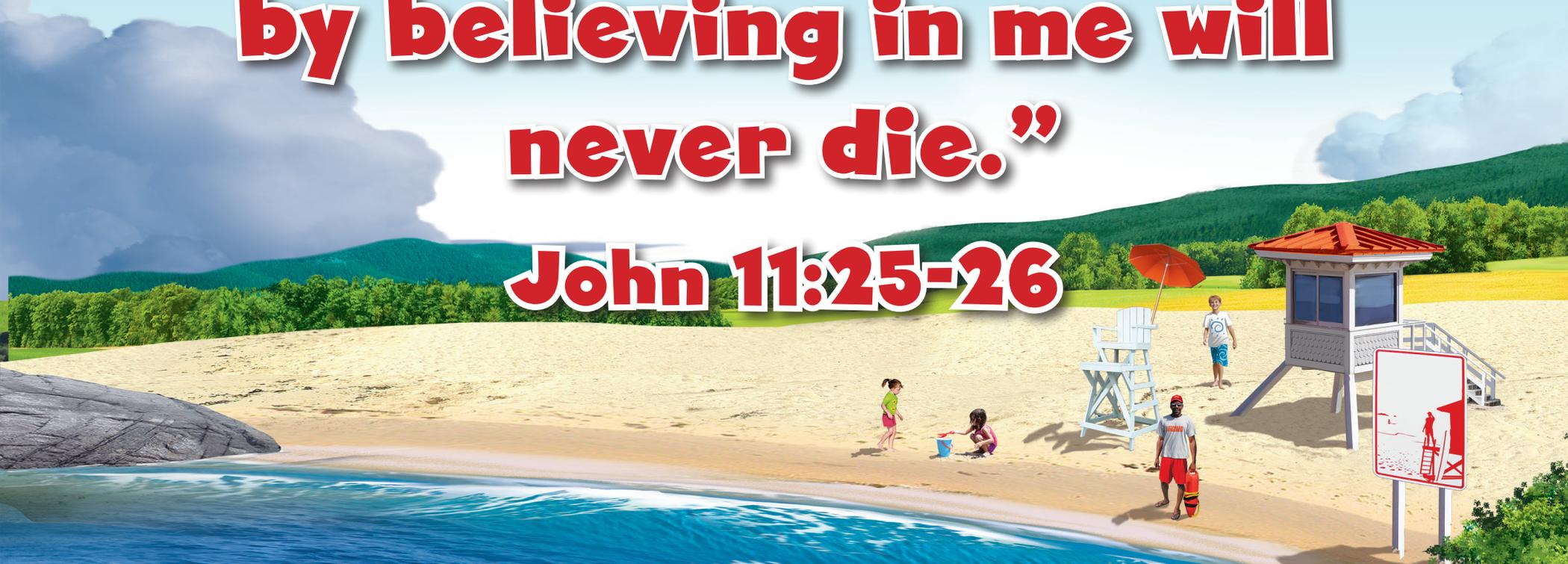
“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

John 11:25-26



“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”

John 11:25-26



“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”

John 11:25-26





Who will always take care of us?

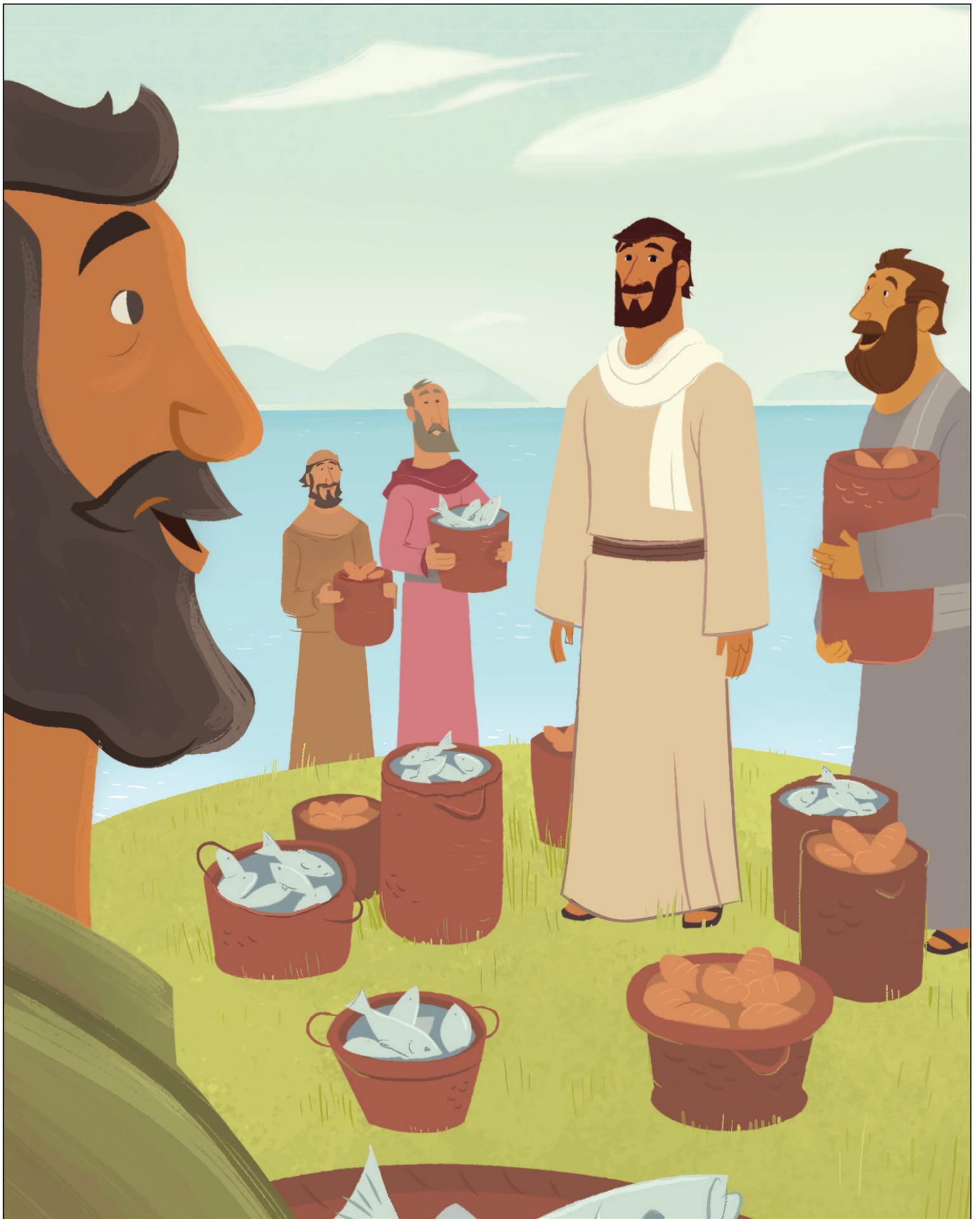


Who will always take care of us?

God can and will provide for our needs.

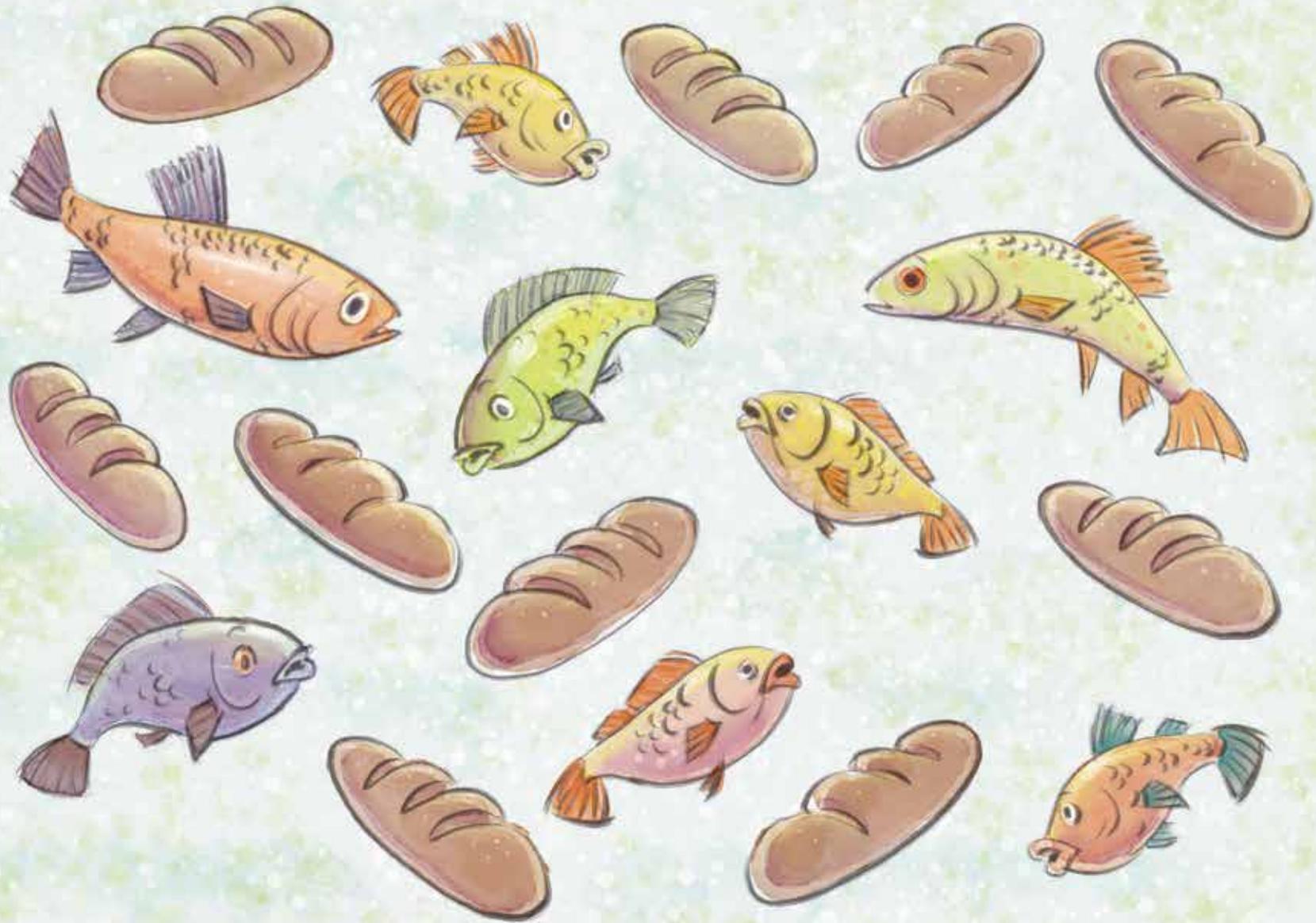






Fish and Loaves

Instructions: Count how many men Jesus fed. One fish = 500 people. One loaf = 100 people.



ALLERGY ALERT



Today we will be tasting/
touching/sniffing:

**Please notify the leader
if your child should not
participate.**

Instructions: Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.

the

GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*