

Bible Lesson

18. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6



“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish. But how far will they go among so many?”

John 6:9

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Jesus went to rest in a quiet place far from the city. A crowd ran after him. He healed them. He taught them. They loved Jesus.

The people sat on the grass and listened until night. They were like lost sheep. Soon, they got hungry. Jesus felt sorry for them.

“We can’t feed so many people,” Philip said.

A kind person gave up his lunch. The food was five little loaves of bread and two tiny fish. It wasn’t much, but it was all he had.

“How far will this go with such a big crowd?” Andrew asked. He was another disciple.

Jesus took the food and thanked God. The disciples gave out the bread and fish. Food just kept coming and coming out of the baskets! More than five thousand people were fed. They were full. There were 12 baskets of extra food.

“This man must be from God,” some people said. They knew it was a miracle.

Who gave Jesus his lunch? It was a little boy. This child had a big heart and giving hands.

Questions

1. What did Jesus do with the little lunch?
2. Who gave the fish and bread to Jesus?
3. What can Jesus do when we give him what we have?
4. What can you give to Jesus?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

You can take what I give you and make it grow.

I would like to give you... (circle one or more) ...

my time my heart my talents my money

Make my gifts to you grow for the kingdom of God.

Amen

Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

18. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) What is the largest number of people your parents had to dinner? How much time and money do you think it took to cook for them?
- b) Have you ever had just a little food for yourself and someone wanted it? How did it feel?
- c) Who can do more amazing things – kids or adults? Why?

After you read:

Kid Power!

This Bible story is so important that it is in all four gospels, recorded six times! We don't discover until the last book – the gospel of John – that the person who gave up his lunch was a little boy. In that era, children were not seen as important. They were not even counted in the 5,000 (or 4,000). But Jesus knows children are wonderful! Whether the child or the gift is small, it makes no difference. When we place our time, talent, or treasure into the hands of Jesus, miracles can happen. See what students are doing to multiply their blessings for the needy: www.kidsareheroes.org and www.mosbb.org

Round Table Blessing

Have each child read one of the four gospels in which Jesus takes the offering and gives thanks. Encourage your students to memorize the blessing prayer that Jesus may have used. This prayer was said by every Jewish father before every meal throughout Israel: "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth." Before dinners, go around the table with each person saying one word or phrase from that prayer. Then, go around the table several times thanking God for each kind of food on the table that the Lord brought forth from the earth. Add reality by lighting candles, singing the prayer in Hebrew, and eating braided egg bread. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr_HW3rpXHE

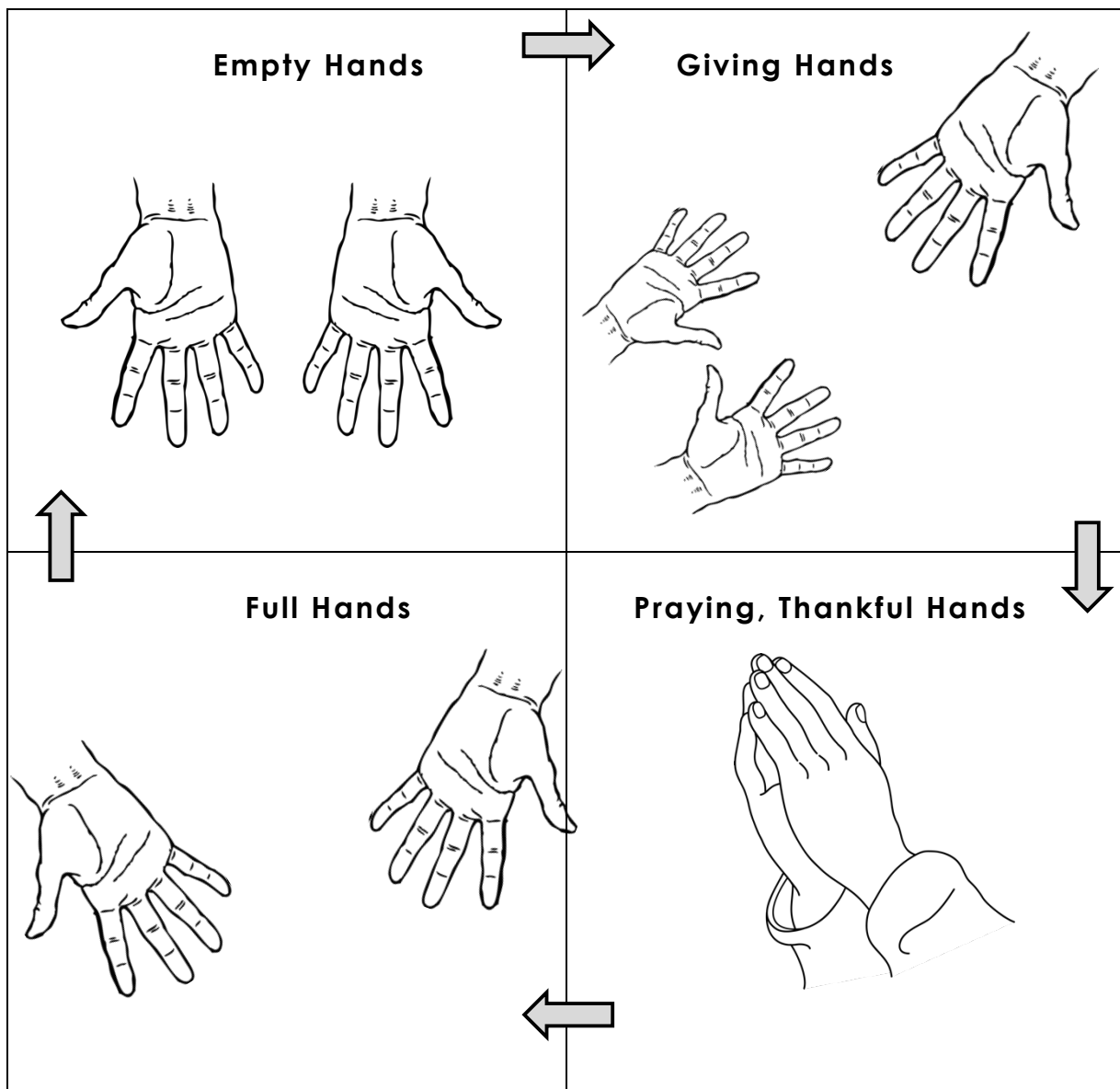
A Sad Ending

What if the boy had kept his food to himself? How might the story end? Assign parts and act out the first three paragraphs. Then write the rest of the story as though the little boy didn't share his lunch. Include a Bible name, his thoughts and feelings...and the sad ending.

Empty Hands, Full Hands

When you walk with Christ, it is a wild adventure in the upside-down kingdom. Everything is backwards and different from this world. In this case, to **give** is to get – to give away is to multiply. Have your students color, cut, and fold this page. They use it to retell the story and draw in fish and bread: The people had empty stomachs and empty hands, without any food. A little boy gave his food away. He put it into the hands of Jesus. Jesus prayed and thanked God for the little he had. God multiplied it. Everyone had full stomachs and full hearts.

Let the kids turn it into a prayer as they fold and show each frame. For example: Lord, I need time. I will give my time to reading my Bible and helping others. I thank you for every little minute. Thank you for helping me find the time I needed. Amen.



Not Any to Very Many!

In the Bible story, there wasn't any food, but in the hands of Jesus, there was much. Use this as a prayer chart. Record your needs on the left. Say the prayer in the middle, and record God's answers on the right.

NOT ANY

Lord, I don't have any....

to

MANY

Thank you, Lord.
Now I have many!



Dear Lord Jesus,

*I put into your hands
my hopes,
dreams,
and plans.*

*Teach me how to live.
Help me to give,
give,
give.*

*When I don't have
any,
I will trust you for
many.*

Amen