

Older children can read the story from the Bible. Someone will have to tell the story to younger children. This is an abbreviated version.

STORY: Mark 6:31-44

Jesus was becoming famous through the land of Israel. People heard of his miracles and came to him constantly until he did not even have time or privacy to eat a meal with his disciples. So he suggested that it was time for them to have a rest.

They got into a boat and headed for a lonely spot, but the people saw them leaving and ran ahead of them, bringing even more people with them and arriving ahead of Jesus and the disciples. As Jesus landed, he saw the huge crowd waiting for him. Although he was very tired, he was not angry or upset because he loved the people and knew that they needed his teaching. The people sat down on the hillside and listened to Jesus. He taught them about the things of God all day. As evening drew near the disciples came to Jesus and asked him to send the people away so they could go to the neighboring villages to buy food. But Jesus told the disciples to feed the people themselves. They were astonished at Jesus' suggestion because there were at least 5,000 men, not counting women and children. Where would they get enough money to feed such a huge crowd?

Then Jesus asked them to go and see exactly how much food they had. The disciples came back with only five loaves of bread and two small fish. Surely this would not be enough to feed more than a couple of people! This was food a young boy had brought for his lunch. Jesus was not concerned about the small amount of food. He organized the people to sit in groups, and taking the loaves and fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, thanked God and began to break the loaves and fish into pieces. As he broke them more food appeared - it was as though he was multiplying the food over and over again. Before long everyone was eating and they continued until they were quite satisfied. There was even food left over!

Jesus also knows what we need and is always working for our good. He can take what we consider to be something small or useless or worthless and make it into something wonderful and worthwhile. He can take small children's lives and make them into great men and women of God.

BIBLE LESSON written by MARGARET LAW (Adelaide,1985)