

The hour is late

JESUS FEEDS THE 5000

MATTHEW 14.13-21 • 2-8 AUGUST 2020

Summer Club
ROOTS

Read the [Introduction for leaders](#), or [Introduction for parents and carers](#) for guidance on how to use these ideas.

You will need these items: food and drink to share, for very young children: play dough, cutters, plates; fish and bread shapes cut out of card; paper, pens; ingredients and equipment to make pizzas, card, a candle, timer (e.g. stopwatch on a phone).

Part 1

Time to share

Plan a special time to eat together, before starting the other activities this week. Serve drinks and simple food or offer something more ambitious if you can. Spend time catching up with each other. Discuss who else could or perhaps should have been with you today. Think and talk about the importance of sharing together.

For very young children: provide play dough, cutters and plates. Make some play food and share it out on the plates.

Lord Jesus, as we meet together,
may we be as keen as the crowds in this week's story;
wanting to stay close to you
and ready to hear what you will say to us today.
Amen.

Part 2

Story search

Divide the Bible story up into small paragraphs and write each one on bread-shaped and fish-shaped cards, then hide them around the room. Ask everyone to find and collect the cards and gather them into a basket or box in the centre of the room. Once they have worked together to arrange the story into the right order, ask someone to read it aloud.

Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been killed by Herod. He needed some time on his own, and went in a boat to a place completely away from everything. But the crowds found out and followed Jesus on foot from the town. When he got off the boat, Jesus saw all the people and he had compassion for them. He healed people who were sick.

When it was evening, Jesus' disciples came to him and said, 'This place is in the middle of nowhere, and it's getting late. Send the crowd away so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'

But Jesus told them, 'They don't need to go away; you give them something to eat.'

The disciples replied, 'What? We've got nothing here! Nothing apart from five loaves and two fish.'



Jesus told them, 'Bring them here to me.' Jesus made everyone sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, blessed the bread and broke it. Then he passed the food to his disciples and asked them to share it out. Everyone ate as much as they wanted. And at the end, when they cleared up, they had twelve baskets of leftovers! Five thousand men, women and children ate that day.

Act out the story

Read the Bible passage again together. Work together, as a family, to recreate the Bible story in the modern day, e.g. having friends round for a party but not having any food to offer. Allow time and space to rehearse then perform the resulting drama.

Thank-you prayer

Provide paper and pens. Invite everyone to write something that they want to thank God for and then place them in a special place all together.

As Jesus thanked you
for the baskets of food,
we thank you, God,
for the many things you give to us
every day.

Amen.

Part 3

Turn out your pockets

Invite someone to turn out their pockets or bags. What do they have with them that they could share with someone else? Use this as a starting point for a discussion: what other things could we share that are not about money or possessions, e.g. Time? Energy? Expertise?

Sorry prayer

As you pray, invite everyone to hold their hands together in a clasped grip before slowly releasing their grasp.

Lord Jesus, we are sorry for the times
we keep you to ourselves
and for not sharing your love with others.
Help us to share it with those around us.

Amen.

Part 4

Time is short

Set a simple challenge connected to food, e.g. make a sandwich, fetch a glass of water, and only give a very short time to do it. Afterwards, sit down together. Light a candle, and have the stop watch ready on a phone (or www.online-stopwatch.com/). Set the time for a minute. Remind everyone that doing God's work is urgent. Encourage everyone to pray quietly, asking God how he wants them to serve other people, and reflecting on what he might be saying.

Part 5

Make and share food together

Have pizza bases, tomato sauce, cheese and various topping ingredients laid out. Be aware of any food allergies. Invite each person, one at a time, to choose one item each. Encourage everyone to contribute their item as you begin to make pizzas together, reminding them that sharing makes the whole experience better for everyone. Cook and share the pizzas together.

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to aid a discussion while you eat together.

- Why is there a need to share?
- What are the best things about joining together with your church community?
- What would you share with them?



A closing prayer

Pray this prayer as you finish eating together.

The crowds gathered around you, Lord,
to share with you;
your words and your food.
Help us to go out to share
your words of love and your bread of life.
Amen.