

The Right Tools

Children's Feature (Based on John 6:1-13, The Feeding of the 5000)

Photo: Tharaka Nithi

GATHER THE CHILDREN AND READ THE FOLLOWING, AND THEN LEAD THE WONDERING QUESTIONS.

Leader: “Jesus told a story about a whole lot of people who got hungry. They were grown-ups and children who went to hear Jesus talk and they stayed and listened all day. In fact, they stayed so long that it began to get late and everyone was hungry. Jesus asked his disciples to feed everyone, but they didn't know how to do it. Then Andrew, one of the disciples, found a little boy who had five loaves of bread and two fish. This boy wanted to give his bread and fish to Jesus. Jesus took what the little boy offered and said a blessing on them. Then the disciples went through the crowd giving out the bread and fish and do you know what happened? Everybody had enough to eat. There was even some left over! Do you know how many people were fed? Over 5,000 people had something to eat because this little boy shared his food.”

Wondering questions: These are suggested questions to spark conversation and wondering for the children (and congregation). After each question, allow the children time to respond freely without giving them feedback.

- I wonder what it feels like to be really hungry?
- What do you do when you're hungry and want something to eat?
- I wonder what would happen if you didn't have any food at all to eat at your house?

Show the children what is in the bag, and ask:

- What do you see in this bag?
- Could any of these things help someone who is hungry?
- How could you use the other things in the bag to help people get enough to eat?

Next, show the items one by one, and pass them around while offering some of possible responses for each item:

- **VEGETABLE/FRUIT:** We could help by sharing food with someone who is hungry.
- **SEEDS or GARDEN TOOL:** We could give people seeds or tools so they could grow their own food in a garden or farm.
- **BOOK:** This can represent helping a person get a good education or learning new skills so they can improve their garden or farm, or get a better job and have the money they need to buy their food.
- **HAMMER:** can represent projects that help people improve their living conditions. A hammer could also represent learning a new skill that improves your way of life, or getting a job that earns enough money to buy what is needed.
- **ANIMAL:** This chicken/goat could multiply by laying eggs, and having offspring that can be taken care of, then eaten or sold in the market.
- **COINS:** These represent collecting money to donate to organizations that provide food and help people who are hungry in other ways.

To close, say: There are many ways to help people who don't get enough food to eat. We can help them have good food right away. We can collect money for (insert name of your local mission or relief and development agency). Everyone needs food to be healthy, to be able to learn and to be able to work and have a healthy life. We can help people learn new skills so they can find jobs or get better ones. We can talk to our government leaders and find out what they are doing to help people take care of their families. Jesus said whenever we feed someone it is like we are feeding Jesus himself. Let's close together in prayer:

Loving God, thank you for showing us that children's gifts are important to Jesus and that when we share, Jesus can do miracles. Amen.