God’s Big Story: Filled Full!

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| scripture focus |
| Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-13 |

big picture

The feeding of the 5000 is the only miracle that appears in every Gospel, even down to the detail of 12 baskets of leftovers. It was extremely memorable – spectacular enough that some participants were ready to make Jesus a king afterwards! Just as God provided manna for the Israelites wandering in the wilderness with Moses, so Jesus provided for the physical needs of those who climbed the mountain to listen to him – he didn’t send them away because they were needy. He taught his disciples to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread,” and then showed that he has the power to answer and provide. Jesus doesn’t turn stones into bread (as Satan tempted him to do in the desert); instead, he transforms the little bit of food that a boy was able to provide into enough for a multitude. In the same way, we should never hesitate to give because the need seems overwhelming and our own offering a mere drop in the bucket. We can be encouraged that what we offer to Jesus is worthwhile, and (when touched and blessed by him) is enough to help and bless and fill those around us.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* “Filled Full!”, p.244-249 | Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-13  Luke 6:38 |
| discuss/ ask | What is the hungriest you’ve ever been? Tell the story.  How did the disciples want to solve the problem of all those hungry people? How was Jesus’ idea different?  Look up some pictures of what 5000 people or objects look like. ([This webpage](https://www.sundayschoolkids.com/activities-nt/1-nt-feeding5000-1instru.htm) gives some good ideas for picturing 5000 people, and [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1v15txtcRbc) shows 5000 M&Ms.) What would you have thought if somebody suggested you feed all those people with five rolls and two fishes? How do you think the disciples felt?  Do you think the little boy who offered up his lunch was expecting that Jesus could do a miracle with it? How do you think he felt afterwards?  What are big needs you see in the world? What can you give to help meet them? How do you think Jesus could use what you have to help other people? | |
| do together | Put together a bag of food for your local food pantry. Go shopping together for some of your children’s favorite foods to include in it. For fun (to match the story), you might want to include goldfish crackers and bread. As you drop it off, pray that God would multiply what you give to feed hungry people.  Put together small bags to feed homeless people you see from your car or while walking. See ideas for items to include [here](https://allgiftsconsidered.com/how-to-make-homeless-care-kits-that-actually-help/) and [here](https://blog.theveteranssite.greatergood.com/homeless-care-package-tips/). Again, pray that God would take your contribution and use it for good in that person’s life. | |