

ROTATION UNIT 12 – FEEDING OF THE 5000

Rotation Objectives

- Children learn about the Feeding of the 5000.
- Children learn about God's provision for us, and about our provision for others.

Weekly Kickoff Topics

- Week 1 – Introducing the stories about the Feeding of the 5000
- Week 2 – Refresh the story of the Feeding of the 5000, with a focus on how the disciples reacted compared to how Jesus reacted.
- Week 3 - Refresh the story of the Feeding of the 5000, with a focus on the idea of God's provision is more than enough for what we need.
- Week 4 - Refresh the story of the Feeding of the 5000, with a focus on what the story means for us and serving others.

STATION 1 - GAME

Station Overview: The children will reinforce their understanding of the story by playing a "Loaves and Fishes" board game.

Supplies Needed:

- A printer to print the game board and pieces
- Scissors to cut out the pieces
- Glue stick to connect the game board together
- Dice (only 1 is needed, but you can use 2)
- A timer
- Unique game token for each player (game piece, coin, or colored paper)

Pre-Class:

- Before the session starts, go to the following website to download and print the game board and the "fish" and "loaves" cards:
<https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/2010/02/loaves-fishes-game.html>
- Print 3 copies of the cards to have enough for the game. Cut out the cards to make a stack of "Fish" cards and a stack of "Loaves" cards.
- Cut the pages of the game board so you can glue them together to make a whole playing board.

Lesson Plan:

1. Remind the participants that we are exploring the story of the Feeding of the 5000. Share that today we are going to play a game to help us learn and remember the story in a fun way.

2. Before playing the game, decide how long the game will last. (Five minutes is a good starting point for a group of 4.) When ready to start, set and start the timer.
3. Starting with the youngest player, take turns rolling the dice to move around the game board. Follow the directions on the game spaces. Continue circling the board until the timer expires.
4. The player with the most "loaves and fishes" at the end of the game wins.
5. After playing a game or two, talk about how the miracle of the Feeding of the 5000 meant that people who were hungry and had little food ended up having their fill of food, plus leftovers. Discuss what this story would be like if it took place today.

STATION 2 – VIDEO STATION

Station Overview: The children watch a video to hear the story of "Stone Soup", and then discuss what they saw and learned.

Supplies Needed:

- Computer, tablet, or other means to play a YouTube Video

Before the Lesson: Prepare to watch the video at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZf60cb3Th8>

Lesson Plan:

1. Remind the participants that we are talking about the Feeding of the 5000. At this event, Jesus acted to make sure that everyone who had come to hear him teach was fed. Today, we are going to watch a video to hear a different story, and then we will talk about both of them.
2. Watch the "Stone Soup" story video.
3. Discussion:
 - a. What do the stories of the Feeding of the 5000 and Stone Soup have in common? How are they different?
 - b. In Stone Soup, what happens when the travelers first come to town looking for food? In the story of the Feeding of the 5000, what happens when the people start asking the disciples about food?
 - c. In both stories, the people don't think there is enough food for everyone. But both Jesus and the travelers seem to know differently. What do they seem to know that the villagers and the disciples do not?
 - d. In both stories, there is enough food because there is someone who believes there is enough to share, and they show or inspire the people around them to share. What do you think these stories are teaching us?

e. How do these stories shape how you think about sharing your blessings, and having faith that there is enough for everyone?

STATION 3 – ARTS & CRAFTS

Station Overview: The children craft paper baskets, bread, and fish to remind them of the story of the Feeding of the 5000.

Supplies Needed:

- Paper plate
- 1-2 Pipe Cleaners
- 2-3 pieces of colored construction paper, or white paper and crayons/colored pencils
- Pencil or crayon
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Stapler

Lesson Plan:

1. Remind the participants that we are talking about the Feeding of the 5000. Today we are going to craft something to remind us of this story!
2. Crafting instructions:
 - a. To make the basket: Cut paper plate in half, and staple the curved outer edges together only, leaving an opening at the top. Then staple 1 pipe cleaner (or 2 connected pipe cleaners) to the outer two corners of the plate to create the basket's handle.
 - b. Color the outside of the plate with a basket pattern.
 - c. On your construction paper, draw multiple fish shapes and cut them out. You can layer the papers while cutting to make more fish of different colors. Do the same with a bread shape.
 - d. Set aside a few fish shapes and a few bread shapes.
 - e. Take the remainder of fish and bread, and staple the pieces along a strand of yarn, however long you would like.



3. When finished, demonstrate how the craft can help tell the story by putting a few fish and bread pieces into the basket, and pulling out a string on multiple pieces of fish and bread. Tell the participants that not only that Jesus was able to feed everyone with just a few fish and loaves of bread, but that God provided enough for there to be leftover baskets of food as well. We should never be afraid to share what we have, because God provides for us in abundance!

STATION 4 - SERVICE

Station Overview: Participants put into practice the lessons of sharing food with others.

Supplies Needed:

- Vehicle and Driver
- Some money for each participant

Lesson Plan:

1. Remind the participants that we are learning about the Feeding of the 5000.
2. Share that today we are going to go on a little field trip where we are going to practice sharing our blessings to try to make sure people are not hungry.
3. Drive to a nearby grocery store of your choice.
4. Give each participant some guidelines and a budget for buying some food to donate to the Loaves and Fishes food bank. Some guidelines are:
 - a. No perishable items, or items that need to be kept cold.
 - b. No glass containers.

- c. Food items only, not hygienic items like toothpaste and soap.
- d. Purchase items that you, or someone you know well, would eat.

5. Allow the participants to shop for food items. It can either be collaborative shopping, or it can be a game to see who can get the most food within their budget. Or for older students you could have a challenge to gather items that would make a complete, balanced meal. Be creative, and allow the participants to be creative as well.
6. Complete the shopping, and pay for the items.
7. Bring the items to the donation bin located at St. John's. (If the bin is locked, the code to the bin is 1623.) Place the items in the section labelled Loaves and Fishes.
8. On your ride home, talk about what it was like to shop for someone else, and what it was like to do this service project together. Explore whether you would want to do it again, or how you could do it differently next time.