



What a Mess

Jesus Feeds 4,000 People

BIG IDEA: I can say, “Thank you, Jesus!”

BIBLE BASIS: Matthew 15:29–39

KEY VERSE: “Give thanks to the LORD, because He is good. His faithful love continues forever.” Psalm 107:1

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

PRE-K & K CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

If you've ever eaten at Chick-fil-A, you've probably heard an employee use the phrase, "My pleasure!" It always makes me smile. I was in a customer service job for many years, and we learned from Chick-fil-A how to make customers feel appreciated and valued. This week the kids will have a chance to say, "Thank you, Jesus." It dawned on me that Jesus probably coined the phrase, "My pleasure!" He loves giving His children every good gift, from the simple food we eat, to our friends, church, families, shoes, glasses, vacations, homes, health, etc. He delights in giving to us, and I think He delights even more when we take the time to simply say, "Thank you, Jesus!" Matthew 7:11 says, "Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (NIV)

Just like the kids will do this week, let's take some time and tell Jesus "thank you" for those good gifts. Here are a few prompts to get you started, but don't stop there!

- For the food we eat, let's say, "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For the house we live in, let's say, "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For our families, let's say, "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For our friends, let's say, "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For the children we minister to, let's say, "Thank you, Jesus!"

Hopefully, when you spend some time telling Jesus "thank you," you can hear Him respond with, "My pleasure!," and a big smile will appear on your face too.

Mindy Rausch
GO! Contributor



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Telling Personal Stories

There are few communication tools as engaging and powerful as a well-told personal story. At times the GO! curriculum will prompt you to tell a personal story, but feel free to add one anywhere you think it's appropriate. Consider these few things when telling a personal story:

Be sure it's age appropriate. For some of us, our lives before Christ may have been rated PG-13 (or, dare I say, R). Be mindful that the content and details of your story are appropriate for General audiences.

Be sure it's relevant. Your recent conversation with a co-worker about the rumors of a corporate takeover may be the perfect metaphor for sin's infiltration of the world, but your preschool kids can't even begin to grasp that concept. Be sure your story takes place in a world that is familiar to a young audience. Consider telling a story about something that took place when you were a kid. The kids in your ministry will eat that up!

Be sure that it fits. Sometimes we have a story that is so great we can't wait to tell it, even if it doesn't fit. Don't force a story to fit the lesson or vice versa. The perfect story is one that you can tell and the kids will understand the connection with little explanation. If you have to explain the connection too much, you might just want to save it for another time.

8.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

During “What a Mess,” preschoolers will meet Messy Mabel — a playful pig who just can’t stay out of the mud! Mabel has made a mess all over our Bible story pictures, and it’s up to the kids to help wipe away the mud and reveal what’s underneath. As they clean up Mabel’s mess, kids will learn that no mess is too big for Jesus to wipe away.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Put a pig puppet or plush toy in the storytelling area. Alternatively, you can print the “Messy Mabel” pig picture on one 8½” x 11” cardstock paper. (See Resource Folder.)
- Print the “Bible Story Pictures and Mud Covers” on 8½” x 11” cardstock. (See Resource Folder.) Place one Mud Cover over the top of each Story Picture. Using Scotch tape, tape the Picture Cover and Story Picture together along the left side as if you are binding a book. Cut along the dotted lines on each of the Mud Covers. (Do NOT cut the Story Picture below it.) When finished, you should be able to fold each of the four strips of the Mud Cover back, thus revealing the Story Picture a little bit at a time. There are 4 story pictures in all:
 - Sick face
 - Number 3
 - Bread and fish
 - Basket
- Create a “Super Duper Bible Box” and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the “Super Duper Bible Box.”
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher’s Story Time Rules signs and Topher’s Big Idea signs on 8½” x 11” cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See “Getting Started” in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

8.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, everybody! I'm so happy to see you all today! We're going to have so much fun! In just a little bit, we're going to meet a new friend named Messy Mabel. She's a messy little pig who loves playing in the mud. Mabel is going to help us learn a Bible story.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** It's true! **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** In fact, that's what our memory verse from the Bible tells us. Let me teach it to you.

"Give thanks *(put hands in prayer position)*
to the LORD *(point up),*
because He is good *(two thumbs up).*
His faithful Love *(put hands over heart)*
Continues forever." *(Spread hands out)*
Psalm 107:1 *(extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.)*

2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

Pre-K & K - Bible Trivia

- Who Wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew)
- Who wrote the book of Mark? (Mark)
- Who wrote the book of Luke? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of John? (John)
- Who wrote the book of Acts? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of Romans? (Paul)
- The Bible is split into two parts. What are they called? (The Old & New Testament)
- What is the difference? (Jesus was born in the New Testament)

8.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



WHAT A MESS INTRO

Say: (Reveal your Mabel puppet or plush toy, or hold up the picture of Mabel the Pig.) Do you remember who this is? This is Messy Mabel — she’s Topher the Gopher’s friend. Can you wave and say, “Hi Mabel!” (Children wave and say *hi*.) Mabel’s a messy little pig who *loves* playing in the mud. There’s just one problem — Mabel splashed mud all over our Bible story pictures. That’s okay, though! We can wipe the mud off of the pictures to see what it is.

Say: If you’re ready to get started, wiggle your fingers in the air. (Children wiggle fingers in the air.) Great! First, let’s get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. (Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.) I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It’s true, it’s true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the “Jesus Feeds 4,000 People” slide

8.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — JESUS FEEDS 4,000 PEOPLE

Say: In the Bible, in the Book of Matthew, Jesus went up on a big hill and sat down. A huge crowd of people came to Him. Let's clean the mud off of our first picture and see what happened next. **(Video 1 – Sick Face)**

Say: Some of the people are sick. Some of them were blind and couldn't see. Some couldn't walk. Jesus healed all of them! Everyone was amazed, and they praised God. Let's clean the mud off another picture. **(Video 2 – Number 3)** Can you count to 3 with me? Ready... 1, 2, 3.

Say: The people stayed with Jesus for three days. They were listening to Him teach and watching Him help people. But now they were hungry, and there wasn't any food! Jesus said to His friends, "I don't want to send them away hungry. They might get too tired and not make it home." The disciples said, "But Jesus, there's no food around here! How can we feed this many people?" Let's clean up another picture to see what happened next. **(Video 3 – loaf of bread and fish.)**

Say: Jesus asked, "How many loaves of bread do you have?" They said, "Seven — and a few small fish." Oh no! That wasn't enough food to feed a big crowd of people. Jesus told everyone to sit down on the ground. Then He took the bread and the fish, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Jesus gave the food to His disciples, and the disciples gave it to ALL of the people. Now, instead of just a little bit of bread and fish, there was LOTS and LOTS of bread and fish. Everyone ate until they were full! Let's clean the mud off one more picture to see what happened next. **(Video 4 - Basket.)**

Say: When they were done, the disciples picked up seven big baskets of leftovers. That day, about 4,000 men ate, plus women and children. Jesus fed all of them! It was a miracle — something amazing only Jesus can do.

8.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In our story for today, the crowd of people was very, very hungry. Who gave them food to eat? *(Children answer.)* That's right — Jesus did! He turned a little bit of bread and fish into lots and lots of bread and fish. Jesus gave the crowd of people food to eat, but did you know this? — Jesus gives us food to eat too! It's true!

Say: Even though we get our food from the grocery store, it's still a gift from Jesus. Jesus loves us and gives us everything we need to live — our food, our homes, our friends and families too! That's why it's good to pray before we eat. When we pray, we can tell Jesus "Thank you" for our food and for every other good gift He gives us.

Say: Hey — I have an idea! Let's practice telling Jesus "Thank you" right now. When I tell you to, let's all shout, "Thank you, Jesus!" *(When saying "Thank you, Jesus!" use the hand motions from the Bible verse — put hands in prayer position, then point up.)*

- For the food we eat, let's say, *(prompt children)* "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For the house we live in, let's say, *(prompt children)* "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For our mommies and daddies, let's say, *(prompt children)* "Thank you, Jesus!"
- For the friends we play with, let's say, *(prompt children)* "Thank you, Jesus!"

(Ask the children for other things Jesus gives us. Insert their answers into the pattern above to say "Thank you, Jesus!")

Say: Those are wonderful words that we can say to our wonderful Savior! For all of the things that Jesus gives us, **we can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"**

8.2 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!" (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and tell Jesus how thankful we are. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,
Every good gift is from you!
Thank You for my food.
Thank You for my friends.
Thank You for my family.
We love You, Jesus!
Amen.**