

God Uses What I Give Him

Bible Lesson: John 6:1-14

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will have a basic understanding that God uses what we have, even when it is just a little, to complete his plans and purposes.

Outcomes

1. Students will learn that God is able to multiply whatever they give to him in obedience.
2. Students will understand that God can use them to make his name known by praying, giving, and going.

Memory Verse

John 6:9 “Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?” (NIRV)

Note: We suggest that you serve the “Loaves and Fishes Miracle Lunch” snack immediately following this Bible lesson. See page 9 for directions on preparation.

Directions

1. Review the words and hand motions for the “How Far Will That Go?” song.
2. The snack for this lesson follows directly after the Bible story. Prepare the “Loaves and Fishes Miracle Lunch” snack as directed on page 9.
3. Put two large size goldfish crackers and five doughnut holes (or small roles) in a sandwich bag. Place this bag inside a paper lunch bag.
4. Place the twelve smaller empty baskets, boxes, or bowls near the teaching area.



PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 40 min.

Materials

- Bible
- “Go,” “Give,” and “Pray” pictures (Lesson 10, Theme pp. 3, 7, 11)
- one sandwich bag
- one paper lunch bag
- large size goldfish crackers and doughnut holes or small rolls
- twelve small containers (baskets, boxes, plastic bowls)
- “How Far Will That Go?” song (MS)
- large, blue sheet or tablecloth to symbolize the Sea of Galilee
- TV/DVD player
- at least two helpers

TEACHING (CORE)

BIBLE LESSON: FEEDING OF THE 5,000

Directions

1. Seat students in a group on one side of the sheet, with two helpers among them.
2. Open your Bible to John 6 and say, *“Our Bible lesson is from the book of John. We are going to see how God uses people, both old and young, to make his name known. As I read the Bible verses, we will all act out what happened.”*
3. Spread a large sheet or tablecloth in the middle of the floor. Point to the cloth and say, *“Let’s imagine that this is the Sea of Galilee. Can you imagine taking a boat trip across this water?”* Let the students pretend to row the boat and put up the sail.
4. Bring out the paper lunch bag containing the baggie with five doughnut holes (or very small bread rolls) and two goldfish crackers. Show everyone what is inside. Say, *“Think about the song we just sang. Whose lunch of fish and bread do you think this is?”* Allow students to guess.
5. Hand the bag to a responsible student and ask, *“Will you hold this for me until we need it, later in the lesson? When the time comes, you and I will open it together.”*
6. If your class is large, choose twelve students to act out the parts of the disciples. For smaller classes, choose one student to play Philip, one to play Andrew, and as many others as you like. Direct these students to come up and stand beside you.
7. Hold up your Bible and tell students, *“I will act out the part of Jesus as I read God’s Word. Andrew and Philip (and the other disciples, if you have them), you should walk closely by my side.”*
8. Lead the disciples to the opposite side of the lake, across from the group of students. Say, *“We will sit down on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, up on a grassy mountainside.”*
9. Motion to the seated students, saying, *“The rest of you are a large crowd of people. You have seen or heard that Jesus can do miracles.”* Direct this group to cover their eyes. Say, *“Jesus can make blind people see.”* Now direct them to touch their ears. Say, *“Jesus can make deaf people hear.”* Now have them touch their legs and explain, *“Jesus can make lame people who cannot walk able to walk, jump, and run. Because you know that Jesus can do things that no ordinary person can do, you follow him wherever he goes. You have just heard that Jesus and his disciples went in a boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When I motion for you to start coming over to where we are, then you can stand up and walk slowly around the edge of the water, taking small steps.”*
10. Tell helpers, *“Helpers, it will be your job to help the crowd to go slowly, taking baby steps.”*
11. Motion for the crowd of followers to come slowly walking around the sea, toward where you and the disciples are sitting. Direct the crowd to form a circle around you and the disciples.

Materials

- Bible
- large, blue sheet or tablecloth
- two helpers
- paper lunch bag with sandwich bag placed inside (contains two large size goldfish crackers and five doughnut holes or small rolls)
- twelve small containers (baskets, boxes, plastic bowls)

12. Say, *“Jesus and his disciples came to this side of the water to rest and be alone. When Jesus saw the crowd waiting for him, he did not tell the people to go away and stop bothering him. Because Jesus loved them, he spent the whole day healing sick people and teaching the crowd about God, his heavenly Father. It was getting late and the people were hungry.”*
13. Turn to Philip and read John 6:5-7. Then ask the group, *“Let’s help Philip. When you are hungry, where do you go to get food?”* Allow responses. (store, market, bakery, restaurant, refrigerator, cabinet, kitchen, parents, etc.)
14. Turn to Andrew and say, *“While Philip was thinking where they could go to get food and how much money it would cost, Andrew went into the crowd to see if anyone had food to share.”* Direct Andrew to go bring the student with the sack lunch to you.
15. When Andrew and the student with the lunch come to you, read John 6:8-9.
16. Ask the student to open the bag he has been holding for you, and hand you the items inside. Hold up the items and show everyone that there are five small “loaves” and two “fish.”
17. Thank the student for holding your bag for you and take it. Direct him to stand in the circle with the group.
18. Pat the floor, or ground, and say to the crowd, *“Please, sit down on this nice, soft grass with us. You’ve been listening to Jesus all day and you’re getting very, very hungry. Now it’s time to eat.”*
19. Read John 6:10 and ask, *“Five thousand men ... wow ... how many is that?”* Allow time for responses. Try to give perspective, by comparing 5,000 to the number of people who come to your church, or the number of people in a small town nearby, or in their school class. Make the point that 5,000 is a lot of people!
20. Point to the student who had the lunch and say, *“This child gave his small lunch, but how far could that go in such a large crowd? Would it even feed all of us? Would it feed the people in your family?”* Allow time for responses.
21. Read John 6:11-13 and ask, *“How did Jesus do that?”* Allow time for responses. Say, *“Jesus is the Son of God. He did a miracle using his power. He took those five small loaves and two fishes and fed everyone until they felt full and satisfied. Amazing!”*
22. Say, *“Everyone watched as Jesus held the few bits of food in his hands and prayed. He thanked God, his Father. Let’s act out how that might have happened next.”*
23. Ask your “disciples” to go get the 12 small containers and bring them to where you are sitting. (If you have less than 12 disciples, direct some to get two containers.)
24. Say, *“Disciples, I will pretend to be Jesus, putting more food into your containers each time you come over to me. You go to the crowd of people and hand out food to everyone.”* Pretend to be filling their containers from your hands.
25. Tell seated students, *“As the containers come to you, reach in and pretend*

to take all you want to eat.” Encourage students to pretend to be eating a piece of bread in one hand and a piece of fish in the other. Demonstrate for them, if they have trouble. Say, “*I hear a lot of lip-smacking going on out there. Is it good?*” Allow responses.

26. As you fill the containers and disciples come back for more say, “*The bread just kept coming, and coming, and coming! The fish kept coming, and coming, and coming! Finally, everyone had full tummies. There was enough food for all the men, women, and children and lots left over.*”
27. Read verse 14-15. Ask, “*What did Jesus’ miracle show the people about him?*” Allow time for responses. Read the verses a second time, if students flounder, reminding them that the answers are in God’s Word.
28. Say, “*The Bible says that this miracle showed the crowd who Jesus really was. Now they believed Jesus was the Prophet, a man who came from God and spoke about God. They knew that Jesus was the one that many Old Testament verses talked about.*”
29. Ask, “*What do you think Jesus’ disciples learned about him that day?*” Allow responses. “*Philip, Andrew, and the rest of Jesus’ friends learned that nothing is too hard for God’s Son. They learned that when they needed something, they could ask Jesus for help.*”
30. Ask, “*What do you think the little boy who shared his food might have learned about sharing whatever he had with Jesus?*” Allow responses.
31. Nod your head and say in awe, “*God is so powerful! He took one little boy, with one little lunch, and used it to show thousands of people that Jesus was the Prophet sent from God for whom they had been waiting!*”

MEMORY VERSE SONG: HOW FAR WILL THAT GO?

John 6:9 “Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?” (NIV)

Directions

1. Have students stand and spread out far enough so that their outstretched arms will not bump into each other.
2. Say, “*Our memory verse comes from the book of John. It has a question that Jesus’ friend, Andrew asked about the small lunch that the boy shared.*”
3. Open your Bible and read John 6:9. Then say, “*Andrew looked at the large crowd of hungry people. Then he looked at two fish and five small loaves of bread. Andrew thought the food would run out, but he forgot that Jesus was the Son of God who can do anything.*”
4. Play the memory verse song on the DVD and have students watch.
5. Then ask, “*How far did that small lunch go?*” Start students out by saying, “*In Jesus’ hands it fed ...*” Let students finish with 5,000.
6. Sing the song together, adding motions.

Materials

- Bible
- “How Far Will That Go?” song (MS)
- TV/DVD

IN CLOSING: WHAT CAN I GIVE JESUS?

Directions

1. Add, *“This lesson makes me wonder what I have that I can give or do for God. Let’s stand up and ask ourselves what we have that Jesus could use.”*
2. Help the students stand up and spread out in a large circle, in rows, or scattered randomly. Make sure they have enough room to move their arms and legs without bumping into each other.
3. Bring out the “Pray, Give, and Go” posters.
4. Choose a volunteer to hold up the “Pray” poster. Ask, *“What does this picture show us that we can do for Jesus?”* (pray) *“What do you need for this part of the job of reaching people with the message of Jesus ... fish ... no?”* Allow time for responses. Some might say you need your mouth, your hands, time to pray, or a quiet place.
5. Say, *“Kneel down and fold your hands together, if you have even a little time to pray.”* Confirm that we all have time for prayer.
6. Ask, *“If you give Jesus even a little time, and you pray, can he use your prayer to do great things?”* Confirm that Jesus listens when we pray and can do great things with our prayer time, when we give it to him.
7. Choose a volunteer to hold up the “Give” poster. Ask, *“What does this picture show that we can give Jesus to help all people in the world to hear about God’s love ... loaves of bread ... no?”* Allow time for responses. Some might say you can give time, money, or things.
8. Say, *“Stand up and put your hands out in front of you like this (demonstrate putting hands together, palms up, as if holding something) if you have even a little amount of money, or clothes, or books, or food, or toys, or time.”*
9. Ask, *“If you give Jesus any of these things, can he do great things with them, like he did with the boy’s small lunch?”* Confirm that Jesus can use things we have to make his name known to many people.
10. Choose a volunteer to hold up the “Go” poster and say, *“This picture shows us that we can go places to tell other people about Jesus.”* Ask, *“What do you need to have for this part of the job of reaching people with the message of Jesus?”* Allow time for responses. Some might say you need feet, a suitcase, or a wheelchair, a car, or plane ticket, or a parent to go along.
11. Say, *“Run in place (demonstrate) if you are able to go even a little way to tell someone about Jesus.”* After a minute, have students stand still.
12. Ask, *“If you give Jesus this ability to go near or far, can he use it to make his name known to lots of people?”* Confirm that he can.
13. Say, *“If you are excited that Jesus wants to use us to help other people know about him, clap your hands together!”*
14. Break for snack time of doughnut holes or small bread rolls, goldfish crackers, and water.

Materials

- “Go,” “Give,” and “Pray” pictures (Lesson 10, Theme pp. 3, 7, 11)



CRAFT: FISH AND POLE

Before the Activity Directions

1. Cut the magnetic strip into 1 ½-inch pieces, one per student.
2. Cut the string into 12-inch pieces, one per student.
3. Cut the “Fish Pattern” sheets in half.

Directions

1. Pass out markers and one craft stick to each student. Help students to write their name on their fishing rod.
2. Give each student a piece of string and help them tape the string to one end of the craft stick.
3. Pass out magnetic strips and help students fold them over the loose end of the string.
4. Pass out a fish sheet and pencil to each student. Have the students write their names on the back of the fish and then color the front with markers.
5. Pass out scissors and have students cut out their fish.
6. Give each student a paper clip to act as a hook.
7. Have your adult helpers punch a hole in the tail of each fish and attach the paper clip through the hole.
8. Show the students how to catch the fish by connecting the magnetic strip on their fishing line to the paper clip hook in the fish’s tail.
9. Collect the fishing rods to use during the prayer activity.



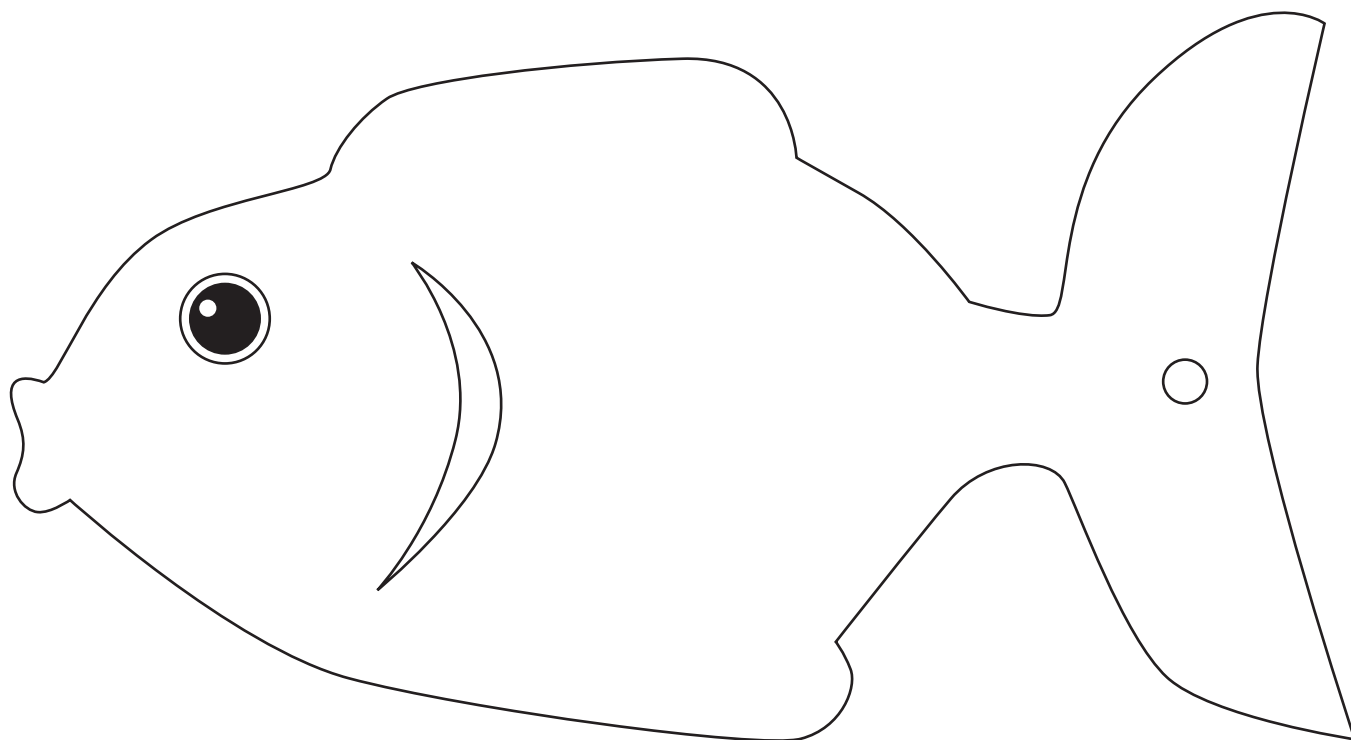
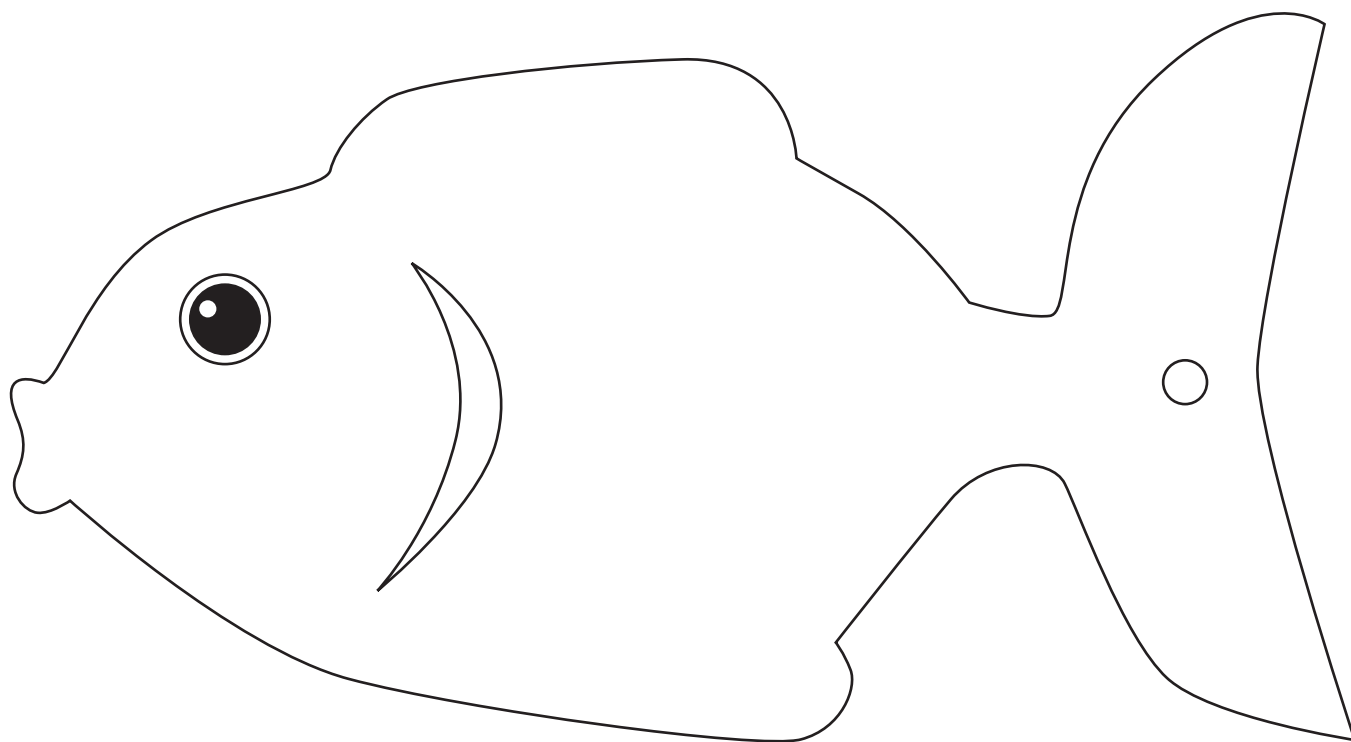
PREPARATION: 25 min.

TEACHING: 25 min.

Materials

- craft sticks (looks like a wide popsicle stick or tongue depressor)
- white string
- magnetic strip
- colored markers
- scissors
- clear tape
- one copy of the “Fish Pattern” (p. 7) for every two students
- paper punch
- paper clips
- pencils

Fish Pattern





GAME: FISH IN THE NET

Before the Activity Directions

1. Using tape or chalk, make straight lines that mark off an area at each end of the play area. Place these boundary lines about five feet out from the walls.

Directions

1. Tell the students that in this game some of them will be fish and some will be fishermen.
2. Choose two students to be fishermen and direct them to stand in the middle of the play area.
3. Have the rest of the students line up at one end of the play area. Starting at one end, assign these students a color, alternating red, blue, yellow, orange ... red, blue, yellow, orange. Tell students to remember their own color.
4. Explain the game by saying, *“The two fishermen will decide on a color. When they call out that color, those of you with that color will run to the opposite safe area. The fishermen will try to catch you by tagging you.”* Show the students the two safe areas.
5. Continue by saying, *“If you are tagged, you become fishermen. Those of you who get to the safe area without being tagged should wait behind the line until your color is called again. Then the game starts again. The fishermen will call out a new color.”*
6. Do a practice round to make sure students understand what to do.



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- masking tape or chalk



SNACK: LOAVES AND FISHES MIRACLE LUNCH

Makes 18 servings (one serving = 20 goldfish and one roll or doughnut hole)

Before the Activity Directions

1. Put one roll or doughnut hole in each baggie. Place the baggie in the bottom of a large cardboard box or basket.
2. Put servings of twenty goldfish in separate baggies. Place these snacks on top of the others.
3. Place two goldfish crackers and five rolls or doughnuts holes into one baggie. Put this baggie into a brown paper lunch bag.

Directions

1. Hold up the brown lunch bag and say, *“This bag reminds me of the boy who shared his lunch of fish and bread with Jesus. What did Jesus do with this little lunch?”* Allow student responses. *“Imagine that you are the little boy. What will you tell your mom when you get back home?”* Let the students pretend. Have one child be the mom and another be the boy.
2. Bring out the large container of snacks. Say, *“In today’s Bible story, Jesus gave thanks before he fed the people. Let’s give thanks. Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for this food. Thank you for taking the boy’s small lunch and using it to show more than 5,000 people that you are the powerful Son of God! Please remind us to give you what we have, so you can use it to make your name known to all the world. In your name, Amen.”*
3. Ask helpers and some of the students who were acting as disciples to pass out the snacks.
4. Provide a cup of water for each student.
5. Remind students that Jesus uses children to do his work. He used a boy’s lunch of bread and fish to feed more than 5,000 people.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- one 12.5-ounce bag goldfish crackers
- 24 small rolls OR doughnut holes
- 40 snack-sized plastic baggies
- large cardboard box or basket
- 1 zipping sandwich bag
- 1 paper lunch bag
- napkins
- small paper cups
- pitcher of drinking water



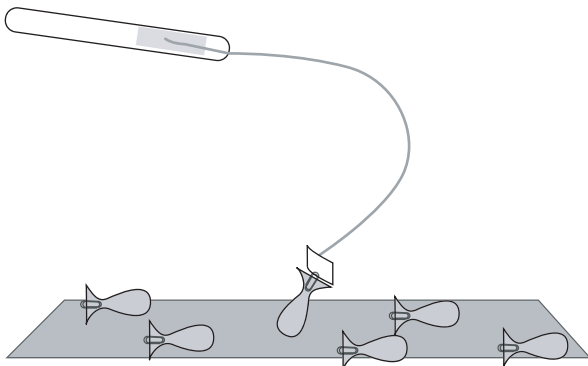
PRAYER ACTIVITY: FISH AND PRAY

Before the Activity Directions

1. Trace two fish onto each of the four pieces of construction paper. Cut them out.
2. Turn fish shapes over and use a marker to print a prayer request on the back of each. Here are suggested items for prayer:
 - I can pray for friends who don't know Jesus.
 - I can learn about God by listening to Bible stories.
 - I can tell my friends about Jesus.
 - I can obey my parents.
 - I can give some of my money to God.
 - I can learn about and pray for missionaries.
 - I can spend time helping others.
 - I can pray for children around the world.
3. Punch a hole in the tail of each fish. Attach a paper clip through the hole for a hook.

Directions

1. Review the Bible story by asking students how a little boy helped Jesus. Spread out the blue cloth and tell students to pretend that this is the water where the boy caught the fish.
2. Show the students the back of one fish shape. Say, *"These fish have ideas on the back. These ideas are ways that we can work with God as boys and girls. Let's put these fish in the lake."* Spread the eight fish onto the cloth.
3. Then say, *"Let's try to catch these fish using the poles we made at craft time."* Show students how the magnet on the end of their fishing line will stick to the hook (paper clip) on the fish.
4. Choose a student to catch a fish. Hand him the pole with his name on it.
5. After the fish is caught, turn it over and read the prayer request on the back. Choose someone to pray. Do not return the fish to the water.
6. Choose a student to catch the second fish. Continue until all eight fish have been caught.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- fishing rods that students made during their craft
- blue sheet or table cloth for lake
- "Fish Pattern" (p. 7)
- four pieces of 8 ½ x 11-inch construction paper in the following colors: yellow, red, orange, and green
- scissors
- black marker
- paper punch
- eight paper clips