

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch.</p> <p>STRETCHY BREAD FISH: Kids stretch bread dough into long pieces and shape them into fishes—both bread and fish in one dish!</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Hair bands, paper, 2 crayons of different colors</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Soap, water, towels, oven, baking sheet, bowl, measuring spoons, fork, pastry brush, cleaning supplies, oven mitts, serving spatula, plates, napkins, cooking spray, refrigerated breadsticks, egg, poppy seeds,</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: When we team up with Jesus, he turns a little lunch into a miracle meal.</p> <p>OODLES OF NOODLES: Kids make cheesy noodles that are topped with breadcrumbs, shaped into a large fish dish, and served family style like the meal Jesus served.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Stove, large pot, water, soap, towels, timer or clock, large stirring spoon, large non-stick saucepan, dry measuring cups, liquid measuring cups, whisk, measuring spoons, pasta strainer, serving platter, spatulas, serving spoons, knife, plates, forks, napkins, cleaning supplies, elbow macaroni, butter, flour, Half & Half, salt, shredded Monterey Jack cheese, finely shredded mild cheddar cheese, seasoned breadcrumbs, green onion</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: When we give even a little to Jesus, he shapes it into a lot!</p> <p>DELISH FISH BAGELS: Kids spread pineapple cream cheese on bagel halves, sculpted into fish shapes with raisin eyes.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Lunch box, fish-shaped crackers, napkins, picnic blanket</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Soap, water, towels, large bowl, spatula, small bowl, can opener, measuring spoons, mixer, plates, table knives, napkins, softened cream cheese, canned crushed pineapple, pineapple juice, plain bagels (6 sliced into 12 round halves), raisins, cleaning supplies</p>



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

Gather with kids around a pile of hair bands, a large piece of paper, and two crayons of different colors. Stretch a hair band on your fingers. **Look how these stretchy bands start small, then stretch to get big. Stretch one carefully so you don't get snapped! See how big you can stretch one of the bands.** Help each kid trace a band at a small and large size on the paper, using one color to trace the unstretched band and another color to trace the stretched band. **Trace the hair band before and after it is stretched. Hold the hair band flat on the paper as I trace.** Carefully release the hair band to observe the paper. **Whoa! Look how big this little band stretched! When things stretch, they start small, then get bigger and bigger.** Collect the hair bands and put them away.

Jesus helps to stretch something from small to big in our Bible story. I wonder what it could be. Let's find out what Jesus stretches in the story of Jesus Feeds 5,000 on page 426 of our Spark Story Bibles. Point out Jesus and Squiggles in the illustration. **There's Jesus on a boat with some friends. And there's Squiggles!**

Read aloud Jesus Feeds 5,000 on pages 426-431. Encourage the kids to follow along as you read and answer the questions at the end. **What did Jesus stretch? (fish and bread) Where did Jesus get the food that he stretched? (A little boy shared his lunch.) When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Hair bands

Paper

Crayons, two different colors

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Stretchy Bread Fish

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 6):

- Cooking spray
- Refrigerated breadsticks (1 can, 11 ounces [312 grams])
- Egg, (1)
- Water (1 tablespoon [15 mL])
- Poppy seeds (3 tablespoons [44 mL])

1. Join kids in washing hands with soap and water before they handle the food. **I wonder if Jesus and the disciples washed their hands in the Sea of Galilee when it was time to eat fish and bread? Let's wash up in our Sink of Galilee!**
2. Preheat the oven to **350°F (177°C). It was a perfect day for a picnic, warm like this oven.**
3. Get a child's help to lightly coat a baking sheet with cooking spray. **Many men, women, and children covered a grassy area by the sea. All of those people had come to see Jesus and hear his stories about God's love. Do you remember how many people were there? (5,000)**
4. Pop open the roll of breadstick dough. **Just when Jesus and the disciples were wondering what to do to feed all of the people, a boy popped up out of the crowd. What did the boy have? (lunch to share: fish and bread)**
5. Have the kids carefully separate the dough into individual breadsticks. **Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish from the kind boy.**
6. Give thanks to God for your snack. **The first thing Jesus did was say a prayer to thank God for the food. Let's pray to thank God for the food we will eat today:
Dear God, Thanks for the gift of this food! Amen.**
7. Pass two doughy breadsticks to each kid. **Jesus shared the boy's lunch with everyone there.**
8. Help the kids stretch each breadstick to about 12 inches (30.5 cm) in length. **Stretch your dough to a long rope. Jesus stretched the small lunch to feed the whole group of people!**

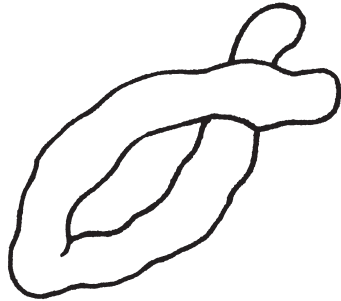
Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Soap
Water
Towels
Oven
Baking sheet
Bowl
Measuring spoons
Fork
Pastry brush
Oven mitts
Serving spatula
Plates
Napkins
Cleaning supplies

9. Show the kids how to twist the dough into the shape of a fish, overlapping the ends to form the tail, as pictured below. **We are going to make this dough into fish shapes. Our snack will be bread and fish at the same time, just like the meal that the crowd ate that day by the lake. Shape your dough into two fish and lay them on the baking sheet. Gently press the point where the ends of the dough cross to hold it together.**



10. Ask one of the kids to crack the egg into a bowl and ask another kid to measure and add the water. Pass a fork around for all of the kids to help whip it to a froth. **Jesus whipped up a miracle meal that day at the picnic. Everyone was fed until they were full. There were even 12 baskets of leftovers!**
11. Help kids paint the egg wash on the bread fish with a pastry brush. Sprinkle each fish with a pinch of poppy seeds. **Sprinkle these poppy seeds on top of your bread fish. Everyone in the crowd got sprinkled by God's love when they shared that meal with Jesus. See how the seeds stick? God's love sticks to us, too!**
12. Bake the Stretchy Bread Fish for about 10-12 minutes or until browned. As the snack bakes, clean up the cooking area together and discuss more of Jesus' miracles. **Do you know about other miracles that Jesus did in the Bible?** (*healing, changing water to wine, bringing Lazarus back to life, calming a storm, etc.*)
13. Serve each kid two warm bread fish on a plate with a napkin. **When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch. Jesus does miracles with what we have to give.**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

When the little boy shared his small lunch, Jesus used it to make a big difference for a huge crowd. When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch. It's a miracle!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Form a tight circle of kids in an open space. **Let's make a small circle that stretches as we pray. At the end of each line of prayer, take a step backward to stretch the circle bigger.**

Dear God, (step back)

Thanks for the chance to share. (step back)

Help us open our lunch boxes and hearts. (step back)

You take what is small and make it sooooo big! (step back)

Thanks for your miracles and love! (step back)

Amen.

Workshop Focus: When we team up with Jesus, he turns a little lunch into a miracle meal.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksondayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

Set Up: Clear a space for the movement activity.

Activity Instructions

Welcome the kids with high fives and encourage them to give each other high fives, too. **Today's story has a lot of numbers. We'll start with high fives today!**

Distribute the Spark Bibles. **Turn to the story Jesus Feeds 5,000 in John 6:1-14 on page 1178 in your Spark Bible. As we read the story, you have a special challenge. Each time we read a number, you must work together to use your bodies to make the shape of that number.** Invite the kids to take turns reading the story. Each time a number comes up, pause for the kids to twist and turn to create the number.

When you are done reading, allow some time for kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker in the story. **Mark the story with a sticker. Which sticker did you choose?** Briefly share sticker stories.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

What were the important numbers in the story? (2 fish, 5 loaves of bread, 1 boy, 12 baskets of leftovers) **Jesus turned a small offering into enough to feed 5,000 followers. When we team up with Jesus, he turns a little lunch into a miracle meal.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Oodles of Noodles

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 6):

- Elbow macaroni (1 pound [454 grams])
- Butter (1/4 cup [28 g])
- Flour (1/4 cup [31 g])
- Half & Half (3 cups [710 mL])
- Salt (1/2 teaspoon [3 g])
- Shredded Monterey Jack cheese (3 cups/12 ounces [340 g])
- Finely shredded mild cheddar cheese (2 cups/8 ounces [227 g])
- Seasoned breadcrumbs (1/2 cup [28 g])
- Green onion

Set Up: Bring a large pot of water to a full boil on the stove so you can cook the pasta as soon as the Activate Faith activity begins.

Activity Instructions

1. Make sure the kids wash their hands with soap and water before you begin cooking. **Let's gather at the sink to wash up before we touch any food! What body of water was Jesus near when our story began?** (*Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias.*)
2. Review kitchen safety with the kids. **Remember to be careful around the stove! The burners, steam, and pots and pans are hot.**
3. Assign two or three kids as pasta masters. Have them pour the pasta in the boiling water. Put them in charge of watching the clock as they cook it according to the package instructions, about seven minutes at a fast boil. Remind them to stir it occasionally so it doesn't stick to the pot. **Jesus saw a large crowd boiling up toward him. How many people were in the crowd?** (*about 5,000*)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Stove
Large pot
Water
Soap
Towels
Timer or clock
Spoon for stirring
Large non-stick saucepan
Dry measuring cups
Liquid measuring cups
Whisk
Measuring spoons
Pasta strainer
Serving platter
Spatulas
Serving spoons
Knife
Plates
Forks
Napkins
Cleaning supplies

4. While the pasta cooks, make a cheesy sauce. Invite a kid to measure the butter into a large saucepan on medium heat. Stir it until it melts. **The crowd had followed Jesus there to hear stories of God's love and to try to get a glimpse of a miracle. They were waiting to see what Jesus would do, just like we are waiting for the butter to melt!**
5. Instruct a kid to measure the flour and quickly stir it into the sauce. **Jesus started stirring up a miracle. He asked his friend Philip a question: "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" How did Philip answer?** (*Six month's work wouldn't be enough to feed everyone.*)
6. Lead some kids to gradually stir in the Half & Half and whisk the sauce until it gets thick and bubbly. **The Bible says that Jesus asked Philip the question to test him. Jesus already knew what he was going to do to feed the hungry people. The plot of the story thickened, just like our sauce.**
7. Let another helper measure and stir in the salt until it is well blended. **It only takes a small amount of salt to make a difference in the taste of the sauce. One small boy made a difference in our story. What did the boy have?** (*fish and bread to share*)
8. Carefully, remove the sauce from heat. Ask some kids to measure and add the Monterey Jack cheese. Other kids may stir the sauce until the cheese melts. **The lunch that the boy offered wasn't much, just some bread and fish. But the boy was willing to give whatever he had, even if it was just a little lunch.**
9. When the pasta is finished cooking, have the pasta masters drain the water from it.
10. Guide the kids to mix the noodles and cheese sauce together in the pot until it is well blended. **Jesus' plan for a miracle was coming together.**
11. Pour the cheesy noodles on the platter. **Jesus took the boy's little lunch and shaped it into a miracle meal. Use the spoons and spatulas to shape this pile of cheesy noodles into a big fish.**
12. Sprinkle the Oodles of Noodles with the shredded cheddar cheese. **Jesus blessed the boy's lunch, then he passed it around until all of the people had some to eat. Not only did all of the people eat from the little lunch, but they ate until they were full! All the people were sprinkled with God's love and power as they ate that day. Jesus provides for us more than what we expect and deserve.**
13. Invite some kids to top the dish with a light dusting of breadcrumbs. **The topper of the story is that there was more food left over than what the boy gave in the first place. How many baskets of leftovers were collected after everyone in the crowd had eaten?** (*twelve*)

14. Have a responsible helper cut a round tip from the cleaned green onion. Place it on the fish shape as an eye. **When the crowd heard of all of the leftovers and felt their full bellies, they could see that Jesus had just made a miracle meal from a little lunch.**
15. Serve each other noodles on the plates with forks and napkins. **At Jesus' miracle meal, everyone was fed from one boy's lunch. We are all fed from this one platter. Serve your neighbor a scoop of the Oodles of Noodles.**
16. Work together to clean up the area. **When we team up with Jesus, he turns a little lunch into a miracle meal. Jesus gives us God's love until our hearts are filled, then he gives us even more!**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Some fish and bread make a snack for one person. When we team up with Jesus, he turns a little lunch into a miracle meal to feed all people.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

During our closing prayer, pretend you are a fish. Swim around the room. Listen carefully to the prayer to know where to swim as we pray.

Jesus,

When we swim out on our own, we are small and feel like we have little to give.

We swim in different directions, get lost, and swirl in circles. Glug, glug. Help

us to follow you! We want to swim together in the same direction. Wave the fish kids together in a tight school. **Thanks for the miracles you make when we gather in your name.**

Amen.

Workshop Focus: When we give even a little to Jesus, he shapes it into a lot!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksondayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

Set Up: Fill a lunch box with fish-shaped crackers. Spread out a picnic blanket in an open spot on the classroom floor. Set out a pile of napkins.

Activity Instructions

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Welcome the kids to the picnic blanket as they arrive. **It's a great day for a picnic!**

Join me on the blanket. As the kids are seated, serve them crackers. **Have you ever been on a picnic? What was it like?** Share picnic stories.

When all have had a chance to share, distribute the Spark Story Bibles and Spark Bibles. **In today's Bible story, Jesus goes on a picnic—a big picnic! Let's read to find out just how big Jesus' picnic was.**

Have the older kids take turns reading the story of Jesus Feeds 5,000 on pages 426-431 in the Spark Story Bible; and on page 1178 in John 6:1-14 in the Spark Bible. Pause as you read words like bread, fish, and food to make grumbling tummy noises. **Every time we read words about food, make a grumbling sound, like your hungry tummy makes. Grrr!**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Lunch box
Fish-shaped crackers
Picnic blanket
Napkins

How many people were on the picnic with Jesus? (5,000) What did Jesus serve them to eat? (fish and bread) Where did all of that food come from? (Jesus made it from a boy's lunch.)

Encourage kids to add a "MAKES ME FEEL . . ." Spark Bible Sticker to their Spark Bibles. **This story makes me feel hungry! How does it make you feel? Mark the story with a sticker.**

One little boy was willing to share his lunch and Jesus fed everyone at the picnic with it. When we give even a little to Jesus, he shapes it into a lot!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Delish Fish Bagels

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 12):

- Softened cream cheese (16 ounces [454 grams])
- Canned crushed pineapple (8 ounces [227 grams])
- Pineapple juice (2 tablespoons [30 mL])
- Plain bagels (6 sliced into 12 round halves)
- Raisins

Set Up: Set out the cream cheese to soften. Arrange the supplies in an area that has access to an electric outlet for the mixer.

Activity Instructions

1. Make sure the kids wash their hands with soap and water before they get started on the snack. **Before we touch any food, we must wash our hands. What did Jesus do before he gave the food to the 5,000 people? (thanked God and blessed the food) We'll pray to bless the food before we eat.**
2. Invite a kid to use a spatula to plop the softened cream cheese into a large bowl. **When our story begins, Jesus finds himself plopped right in the middle of a big crowd. Why did the people gather? (to see Jesus, be healed, hear Jesus' stories)**
3. Ask an older kid to open the can of pineapple with the can opener and dump the pineapple on top of the cream cheese. Show the bowl to all of the kids. **See all of the little chunks of pineapple, surrounding the cream cheese? Jesus was used to being surrounded by people all of the time. He told stories about God's love and showed God's power by making miracles.**
4. Guide the kids to measure and add the pineapple juice to the bowl. Blend the pineapple and cream cheese with the mixer on medium speed. **When Jesus**

Spark Resources

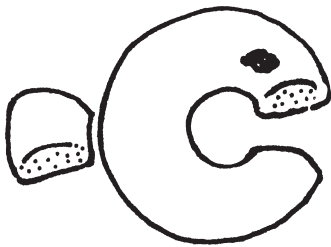
None

Supplies

Soap
Water
Towels
Large bowl
Spatula
Small bowl
Can opener
Measuring spoons
Mixer
Plates
Table knives
Napkins

saw the crowd, his mind was turning, like the beaters on the mixer. Jesus was thinking about feeding all of the people so they could stay longer and hear more about God's love.

5. Lead some kids to scrape the sides of the bowl with the spatula to put all of the spread into the small bowl. **Jesus turned to Phillip, one of the disciples, and asked him how they were going to feed all of the people. Philip answered that he couldn't scrape together enough food for the crowd even with the money he could earn from six months of work.**
6. Reveal a bag of bagels and hold it out as if you are offering it on a platter. **A boy stepped forward and handed over his lunch. What was in his lunch?** (*five loaves of bread and two fish*)
7. Give each kid a round bagel half on a plate with a table knife and a napkin. **The boy knew that his lunch was small, but he gave what he had to help Jesus.**
8. Pass the pineapple spread. **Cover your bagel with cream cheese. The boy's lunch didn't look like much, but Jesus used it to cover the needs of everyone there and still had leftovers! It was a miracle!**
9. Help the kids cut their bagels into fish, as pictured below. **We're going to reshape our bagels into fish. Cut a triangular wedge from one side of your bagel, giving your fish a hungry, open mouth. Save the cut piece for the next step!**
10. Help the kids use the cut piece of bagel to make a fish tail as pictured below. **Place the wedge you just cut behind the bagel, with the tip pointed toward the bagel's center. And look! Your fish now has a tail.**



11. Give each kid a raisin. **Place the raisin as your fish's eye, above the open mouth cut-out. It's a Delish Fish Bagel—bread and fish in one dish!**

12. Bless the food together. **All of the people ate until they were full that day. When we give even a little to Jesus, he shapes it into a lot! Let's bless the food, then you can munch on your miracle meal. Please pray with me: God, thanks for the way you make miracles. Bless this food! Amen.**
13. After everyone has had their fill, work together to clean up the cooking area. **Let's all put in a little time to clean up this big mess!**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Jesus made a miracle meal out of one boy's lunch. When we give even a little to Jesus, he shapes it into a lot!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Picnic blanket

Lunch box

Paper

Crayons

Prayer Time

Gather on the picnic blanket, with the emptied lunch box, paper, and crayons in the middle. **Write or draw something that you can share. It could be anything: a toy, a smile, or a special skill. During the prayer, put your paper in the lunch box.**

After giving kids some time to write and draw, begin the prayer.

Jesus,

Thank you for each person here and for what we have to give. We offer these gifts to you! Allow time to place the papers in the lunch box. **Use these gifts to make miracles, just like you used the boy's lunch to feed 5,000 followers.**

Amen.