

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
Jesus Feeds 5,000
from John 6:1-14.

Everyone can be fed and loved by Jesus.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Sea of Galilee
- Crowd
- Passover
- Barley
- Fragments
- Baskets
- Andrew
- Signs

Barley was one of the most important food grains in the ancient world, including Israel. It was sometimes used for medicinal purposes as well as being the general food of Roman gladiators, who were called *hordearii* or "barley men."

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 426-431

Spark Bible page 1178

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you our abilities and strengths so that they may be miraculously increased by you. Multiply our gifts so we may share them with others and bless your kingdom. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 If you add the number of barley loaves and the number of fishes the boy brought for his lunch, how many foot items did he give to Jesus? How many items are usually in your lunch?
- 2 Pretend you are the young boy in the story. Would it be difficult to share your small lunch with a bunch of strangers? Why or why not?
- 3 What is something you have (like a talent, ability, possession) that you can give to Jesus for him to bless and multiply?
- 4 Have each member of your family tell or show or something they can give to Jesus to bless. How could these things help others or share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world?

Eye Spark

This week, look for baskets at home, at school, in stores, and everywhere. Each time you see a basket, remember the twelve baskets of food that were left-over after Jesus blessed the little boy's lunch.

Ear Spark

Listen for the sound of your microwave dinging when your food is hot and ready to eat. Each time you hear it ding, say, "Jesus blessed the bread and the fish and it multiplied!"

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Work together to prepare a pot of barley soup. Make sure each family member helps in some way, whether it's cutting or washing vegetables, opening cans, or cleaning the work area. When your soup is finished, take the pot to a neighbor, a sick person, or a homeless shelter and share the ways that God has blessed your family.

For younger kids

Look through your closet or drawers to find a few items of clothing that you have outgrown. Take the bag to a charity drop-off location. When you do, say a prayer asking God to bless your clothing and to let your clothing help others.

For older kids

With adult permission, use the internet to find a few barley recipes. Print the recipes off and collect the ingredients you'll need to make them. Cook or bake one of the recipes. Share the tasty treat with your family as you thank Jesus for all the food he provides.



TRY IT

Art

Use food to create some cool art! Gather up dry pasta, crackers, and cereal, then use glue to create a pattern or picture on a piece of paper or paper plate. As you work, remember how Jesus turned a little boy's food into a feast for 5,000 people.

Bible Skills and Games

As a family, volunteer to help at a food shelter, soup kitchen, or a charity such as Feed My Starving Children. On the way there, talk about the story of Jesus Feeds 5,000. On the way home, talk about how your experience made you Jesus' helpers.

Computer Lab

Look up how many people live in your city or town. Is it more than 5,000? Less? Plan a menu for a city-wide picnic. What would you have for the main course? What would you have for dessert? Don't forget to come up with a prayer thanking God before everyone eats.

Cooking

Serve a family meal on a picnic blanket, inside or outside. Retell the story of Jesus' miracle meal at the picnic by the Sea of Galilee. As you share a meal like the 5,000 who came to see and hear Jesus, share stories of everyday miracles in your lives.

Creative Drama

Act this story out as a family using action figures, stuffed animals, or dolls. Write your own script and bring it to life in a unique way. Feel free to involve friends and neighbors too. They can be fellow actors or provide a loving and supportive audience.

Music

Talk about what might have been in the boy's lunch if this story had happened today. Peanut butter and jelly? Bologna sandwiches? Some potato chips? How would 5,000 people talk after eating peanut butter? How loud would it be with all of them crunching on chips? The food everyone eats doesn't matter. What is important is that God provides enough.

Science

Create a family tree together that shows how you are connected to other generations. Look at the way that everyone is connected to each other, whether by birth, marriage, adoption, or other connections. Celebrate that God has blessed your family.

Video

Plan a family banquet together with fish and bread. Or fishsticks and muffins. Or goldfish crackers and sandwiches. After dinner, watch a movie about sharing food: *Ratatouille*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Elmo's Magic Kitchen*, *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, or one of your own choosing. *Bon appétit!*