

**Focus:** Sharing a Meal

**Materials:**

- Cd: 25 Sunday School Songs
- Beginners Bible
- Lunch bags
- Crayons
- Book-The Boy Who Gave His Lunch

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about our treasure in heaven is offered to everyone. This week we will hear about Jesus feeding a big crowd of people.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Thank you, God, for taking care of us and giving us what we need. Help us to share what we have with others. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

**Amen.**

**Song/Movement**

Trust and Obey, track:XXXXXX, from 25 Sunday School Songs

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His word  
What a glory He sheds on our way  
When we do His good will  
He abides with us still  
And with all who will  
Trust and obey  
(chorus)  
Then in fellowship sweet  
We will sit at his feet

Or we'll walk by His side in the way  
What He says we will do  
Where He sends we will go  
Never fear only trust and obey  
(chorus 2x)  
Chorus  
Trust and obey  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
But to trust and obey

### Alternate Creative Movement

Have kids form two equal lines facing each other, or a big circle. To the beat of the music have them take four steps toward each other and clap the hands of the child facing them (or their own), then take four steps back and clap their hands together. Repeat.

### Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Jesus prayed and thanked God for the food.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *God provides for us all that we need. When we eat our food saying grace is a way to thank God.*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

**Read:** The Beginners Bible, pp. 374-379, *A Big Picnic*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

- *Why do the disciples want to send the crowds away?*
- *Why does Jesus want to feed the many people?*
- *How much food do they have to begin with?*
- *How does Jesus feed thousands of people?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*In today's gospel, Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves of bread and two fish. This story of Jesus feeding thousands of people is very important. It is retold six times in the gospels, which shows that Jesus' followers thought this story was very important. In the story the disciples want to send people away because they do not have enough food to feed them. Jesus tells the disciples to feed the people. Jesus looks up to heaven and blesses the five loaves of bread and two fish. He sends his disciples out to share it with the people. Not only is there enough to eat, but there are leftovers. In this story Jesus feeds many people. He shows them how much God cares for them. The story of Jesus feeding the crowds reminds us of how Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist. Jesus is the "bread of life," who shares his life with us in the meal of Eucharist.*

## **Gospel Activity**

### Activity 1:

The theme for today is sharing a meal. To begin provide small brown lunch bags and crayons for the children. Invite the children to imagine that the best lunch that they could ever have is packed in their lunch bag. Have the children write or draw their favorite lunch on their bag. They can just use colors if they can't draw the objects. Peanut butter and jelly can be a brown and purple square. A banana can be a curved yellow line. A brownie a brown square; Orange juice an orange rectangle, like a juice box.

Discuss:

- Why is food good for us?
- Who gives you the food you need?
- How does God give us what we need?

Allow time for discussion.

We need food and drink to live and grow. Jesus gave people food and drink to show them God's love. When we share the meal of Eucharist we grow closer to Jesus and to one another.

### Activity 2:

Read the book: The Boy Who Gave His Lunch Away. Discuss: Why did the boy share his lunch? -- He couldn't eat it if he knew there were others that didn't get a chance to eat. Do you think other people brought forward their food? There wasn't a burger king or Pizza Hut, back then people would bring some food with them when they traveled.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

## **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "We Believe!")

Ask: *Do we believe in God, who promises to all care for us?*  
*Do we believe in Jesus, who fed the crowds with bread and fish?*  
*Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us see the goodness of God?*

## **Sending Forth**

Say: *How can you thank God this week for all the gifts that you have been given?*

## **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "This Little Light of Mine" track 10 from 25 Sunday School Songs while children put away any materials and line up. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.