

## Reality – Bible Lesson for June 14, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

### New Testament

#### Section Two: His Love for All People

#### Lesson 3: Miracles – Feeding the 5,000

- 1. Lesson: Miracles – Feeding the 5,000**
- 2. Scripture:** Matthew 14:13-22; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15
- 3. Memory Verse:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) (repeated from last week)
- 4. Mission Story:** Betty Greene – Part 2
- 5. Bible Skills:** Next week
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity – Object Lesson:** one piece of plain white paper; scissors

#### Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fGjybUn5bE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uupg0V-17NU>

**1.Prayer:** Pray with your children – then introduce the object lesson:

You will need a piece of regular white paper and a pair of scissors.

**Say:** I have a pair of scissors and a plain piece of paper. How many corners does my piece of paper have? (Allow time for the kids to answer)

That’s right – my paper has 4 corners. But what if I want to give someone a corner? (Cut off a corner of the paper and hand it to a child. Hold up your paper and say...) Now that I’ve given a corner away, how many corners do I have? (Allow time for the kids to answer)

Wait a minute – I have 5. (Count the corners to show the kids there are now 5 corners on your paper.) (Cut off more corners – each time counting the multiplying corners) Every time I cut off a corner, I get more corners. Watching these multiplying corners sort of reminds me of the story we’re going to hear about today. It’s about another of the wonderful miracles of Jesus.

**Say:** Jesus did so many amazing things when He was here on earth. One of the miracles He did was to take a small boy’s lunch and use it to feed over 5,000 people. You see, the more times Jesus divided the bread and fish, the more He had to give away.

Not only did the bread and fish keep multiplying – the people had more than enough. Jesus took a boy's lunch, just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, and blessed over 5000 people with it. Let's hear the story about this incredible miracle...

**2.Bible Story:** (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

The miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000 is the only miracle that is mentioned in all four of the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It took place nearly a year before His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion – when Jesus was at the height of His ministry. Huge crowds were following Him everywhere He went. Since there were so many people following Jesus, the time He spent with His 12 disciples became especially important because He had a lot that He wanted them to learn. As we begin the story of this miracle, the 12 disciples have just returned to Jesus from their mission throughout Galilee of preaching and healing the sick (**Mark 6:7-13**). John the Baptist had been recently killed by King Herod. It is here in Galilee that we find Jesus united with the disciples making their way to the Sea of Galilee where they went on a fishing boat to a place where they could be alone for a while and spend time praying to God. (**Mark 6:31**).

But the crowds of people who wanted to see Jesus watched to see which way His boat sailed, and they took their families and started running along the shoreline. When Jesus and His disciples pulled into shore, they found a huge crowd of thousands of people waiting for them. Mark tells us in **Mark 6:34**, they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus had compassion for the people, welcomed them, taught them, and ministered to their needs like a loving shepherd would. **Matthew 14:14**

It was almost time for Passover, so many people were on their way to Jerusalem to worship. Hearing that Jesus was in the area, a great multitude sought Him out to hear His teachings and to be healed. The crowd had 5,000 men in it. With women and children, it may have been as large as 10,000 to 15,000 people. As the day was drawing to an end, the Disciples told Jesus to send the people away so that they could find food. (**Mark 6:35-36**) But Jesus took this opportunity to teach His disciples a lesson, preparing them for ministry. The disciples looked at the situation and relied on their own ability and resources to deal with the problem. But Jesus used this situation to teach them how they should respond. Jesus would use the miracle of feeding the five thousand to increase the faith of His disciples. This way, when they came across something that was impossible later in life, they would remember that Jesus makes possible the impossible. Read **Luke 18:27**.

Jesus asked His disciple, Philip, "Where should we buy food for these people to eat?" Jesus was asking Philip because he was from the closest town to where they were – Bethsaida (behth-SAY-ih-duh). He would know best what was available in the town. Philip pointed out that even if the Disciples worked for months, they wouldn't be able to buy food for everyone. (**John 6:7**) Jesus knew that there would never be enough food

in the small village to feed this many people – He was presenting the impossibility of the situation. Jesus knew, all along, what He would do but He wanted to test the faithfulness of His Disciples and involve them in the work of the Kingdom of God. Jesus always helps us grow and remember our commitment to Him.

Only in John's Gospel does it tell that the disciple, Andrew, brought forward a young boy who wanted to offer his food of five small barley loaves and two fish. **(John 6:8-9)** Barley bread was the cheapest bread you could buy – barley was a grain that was usually used to feed animals - yet Jesus used these meager loaves to feed a multitude. When Andrew saw the child, he also saw with eyes of faith what Jesus might do with this small amount. Jesus asked for the people to sit down in an orderly way – in groups of fifty and one hundred. Then He took the loaves and fishes, looked up to Heaven and thanked God for supplying them, broke them, and gave them to the Disciples to distribute to the hungry people. He multiplied them until He fed everyone. The people were filled – which means they ate until they were stuffed. Jesus had supplied abundantly, but He didn't want to waste any food. After everyone finished eating, the disciples went around and picked up 12 baskets of leftovers...All from one little boy's meal. **(John 6:12-13)**

The people reacted by saying that Jesus was the prophet they had been waiting for, as written in **Deuteronomy 18:15**, and they tried to make Him king. They thought anyone who could perform such miracles must be their long-awaited political king who would help them overthrow the Romans. But Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world. Knowing the desire of the people to make Him their king, Jesus left and made His way up to the mountain by Himself.

Then the Disciples climbed into their boat and the huge crowd left. Jesus taught over and over that His was not the role of conquering king, but the role of suffering servant who would give His life for many. It was a lesson even His own disciples couldn't understand at this point. Jesus was teaching them about the giving character of God – the same character that God wants to build in us. When we have something to do that is difficult, we may act like the disciples did in this story and think about giving up or not even trying. But Jesus shows us the way we are supposed to handle problems. We need to take everything to Him and see what He does with it.

It was a young boy who offered his lunch that ending up being used by Jesus to feed so many people. Age is not important when we offer up ourselves to do service for God. Jesus needs what everyone can bring. We can face the impossible if we only remember to place our lives in His mighty hands.

### **3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:**

1. This story takes place right as Jesus found out about John the Baptist's death. How do you think Jesus was feeling as the story begins?

2. Where did this take place? (Bethsaida)
3. Why do you think none of the people left, even though night was coming.
4. How many people were in the crowd? (5,000 men and many more women and children – possibly 10,000 – 15,000 people)
5. What did the disciples tell Jesus to do? (send the people into the surrounding villages so they could get food and lodging)
6. What did Jesus say back to the disciples? (you feed them)
7. How much food did the disciples have? (five loaves and two fish)
8. How many people do you think you could feed using five normal loaves of bread and two normal fish? Using multiplication figure out how many loaves and fish you would need to feed 5000?
9. What did Jesus do before He fed the people? (He thanked God for providing the food.)
10. What does Jesus blessing and breaking the loaves and fish remind you of?
11. How many baskets were filled with leftovers? (Twelve)
12. Why is it important that there were 12 full baskets left over? (God provides abundantly.)
13. What do you think the people thought/said about all the food left over?
14. What might they have said later to their friends who weren't there?
15. Why do you suppose Jesus performed that miracle? What was he trying to show them? What does this story teach you?

#### **4. Prayer/Journaling:**

**Say:** Jesus used the little boy in our story today, even though he was young. You may wonder sometimes if God can use you now, or do you have to wait until you grow up to be used by God. Well, God can use you RIGHT NOW! Let's read **Ephesians 2:10**...

Serving God means you use your talents and abilities to praise God as well as help other people know about Him. God gave you many different gifts and abilities for serving Him. You are each one of a kind! I'm going to say some things that you might be good at doing and you tell me how you can serve God through these activities. (pause and let them respond after each one) - speaking...drawing...playing a musical instrument...playing sports...singing...teaching...sewing...dancing...(others)

God gave you talents and abilities to serve Him. Each person has different talents and abilities. God does not expect you to be perfect when using your gifts, but He does expect you to use them.

**Pray:** Thank you God for giving us talents and abilities that we can use to serve You. Please help us to learn how to use our gifts to help people know more about You. [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

## **5.Mission Story:** Betty Greene – Part 2

Here is a review of the Betty Greene's biography – if kids are unfamiliar with it from the lesson two weeks ago... It is followed by this week's mission story:

On Betty Greene's sixteenth birthday, her father gave her and her twin brother the gift of an airplane ride. Aviation was the new thing with Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927 and Amelia Earhart's flight in 1928. Betty, born on June 24, 1920 in Seattle, followed each event with enthusiasm and saved every penny to take flying lessons.

Her Christian parents supported her interest in aviation, but when it came to college, they encouraged her to enroll in a nursing program at the University of Washington. But Betty was unhappy with that, so she dropped out after two years. Then an elderly Christian woman, who knew of Betty's interest in aviation, suggested that she combine her flying with missionary work. "Of course, dear," she said, "think of all the time – and sometimes lives – that could be saved if missionaries didn't have to spend weeks hacking their way through jungles."

Suddenly, Betty had a direction for her life. She returned to school to study for missions and continued working toward her pilot's license. When World War II broke out, she signed up as a WASP (Women's Air Force Service Pilot) to get additional flying experience while serving her country. One day she wrote an article for a magazine about using planes to help missionaries, something that had been done only a few times before. When Navy pilot, Jim Truxton, read the article, he contacted Betty and suggested starting an aviation organization to serve missionaries once the war ended. The Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship was officially born on May 20, 1945. Later, it changed its name to Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Betty was released from the service and helped set up MAF offices in Los Angeles. The new organization obtained its first airplane, a red Waco biplane, and Betty flew it down to Mexico to help Wycliffe Bible Translators in their jungle training camps. She became MAF's first official pilot.

At age twenty-six, Betty was finally doing what God had prepared her for. And she loved it! The flight into or out of the jungle camp took one hour and forty-five minutes, while hiking through the jungle required ten days to two weeks. Altogether, she flew more than 4,800 hours, bringing medical supplies and food to missionaries, flying sick and injured people to hospitals, and carrying missionary children to their schools or to be with their parents for vacation. She served in Mexico, Peru, Africa, and Indonesia.

In 1962, Betty retired from fieldwork but continued to ferry planes for MAF from time to time. Finally, she returned to Seattle for the last years of her life until she died in April 1997.

Another story that is told about Betty is when she was working in Africa:

Two-year-old Loraine Conwell giggled as she popped another peanut into her mouth. She was playing on the porch of her house with some other children in the middle of the morning in June 1967. Three days earlier, her mother had given birth to a new baby sister and now Mrs. Conwell was inside resting.

The Conwells were missionaries at the Sudan United Mission leprosarium (a hospital for lepers) in the Nuba Mountains, some two hundred miles northwest of Malakal, Sudan, in Africa, where Betty Greene was stationed with her MAF airplane.

Suddenly, little Loraine began to cough. Then she began to choke and had trouble breathing. Jumping up and running to her side, Loraine's mother realized that a peanut must have gone down the child's windpipe. "Turn her upside down and smack her back," instructed one of the nurses as she and Roy Conwell, Loraine's father, came running. But it did no good. They even tried dusting a little pepper in Loraine's nose to make her sneeze, but the peanut wouldn't budge. Fortunately, it was not completely blocking her windpipe, so Loraine could breathe with much effort and wheezing. But there was also the chance that the peanut might move the wrong way and completely block her windpipe.

Roy Conwell could not stand around watching while his little girl gasped for air any longer. He had to go for help! But the closest telephone was thirty miles away, and in that time of the year – the rainy season – it could take a day or more to travel thirty miles. "I'm going to take the tractor," he said. "It's slow, but there'll be less chance of it getting stuck in the mud."

He got to a phone by seven that evening and immediately phoned the MAF house in Malakal. "Can you come quickly?" he asked Betty Greene. "We have a medical emergency. If I can't get my little girl to the hospital soon, she'll probably die."

By first light the next morning, Betty was on her way. She picked up the child, her father, and a nurse at the leprosarium and flew them 320 miles to the hospital in Khartoum. There, a specialist performed a delicate operation to remove the peanut and little Loraine was on her way to recovery.

But God was watching over little Loraine in other ways that day. The specialist who removed the peanut was scheduled to leave for London the next day. Had Loraine not been brought to the hospital by air, she would have arrived too late to receive that doctor's help, even if she had survived the slow overland trip.

Also, just a few hours after Loraine came out of surgery, a terrible dust storm struck the city of Khartoum. It was so severe that everything turned as dark as midnight. The lights came on, but then the power failed, and everything was brought to a stop.

"Thanks," Roy Conwell said to Betty. "If you hadn't come as soon as possible after I called, the dust storm might have made it impossible for us to land in Khartoum – or the power might have failed while the doctor was trying to operate. Betty nodded, her own heart swelling with thankfulness. As an MAF pilot, being available was what it was all about.

Availability to the Lord means coming when you are called and going where you are sent.

**6.Bible Skills:** Next week

**7.Memory Verse:** Have the children say the memory verse one more time – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) (repeated from last week)

**Play: What’s Next?**

Divide the kids up into two groups. Have the two groups on opposite sides of the room. Taking turns, from one group to the next, have each child recite the next word of the verse. Go back and forth reciting the verse several times.

**8.Closing Prayer:** Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don’t forget to pray for missionaries.