

date: **5/14/17**

**Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44;
Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15**
(Feeding the Five Thousand)

God Is Provider

REMEMBER VERSE

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.**

Psalm 147:5

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

When I think about God providing for me, I instantly think of tangible things, such as money for rent or new brakes for my car. But in Matthew 6:31–32, Jesus said, “Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.”

God often does provide for our physical needs, but God has provided something so much better for us: a Savior, whose sacrifice paid for our sin. God has provided the way into direct relationship with Him. God provides because He knows all my needs—both tangible and intangible.

God has provided for my soul by giving me peace when I spend time with Him. God has provided for my heart by giving me love through the people in my life. He has provided hope for my future because I know He’s always with me. And He’s provided eternity, which I get to spend with Him!

Because of these reasons and many more, I’m convinced that “my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). God is Provider.

Tori Funkhouser
ROCKHARBOR Church

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things” (Mark 6:34).

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14).

In each of these accounts, the compassion Jesus feels is followed by an action. In the original language, the Greek word used for compassion is *splagchnizomai*. It comes from the Greek word for the vital inner organs of a person—the stomach, heart, lungs, spleen, liver, and kidneys. Jesus felt the depth of this emotion. He was moved so deeply that His natural response was action.

Scripture tells us Jesus continued to teach the people and heal their sick until late in the day. When it began to get late, the disciples came to Jesus asking Him what they should do. Should they send the people away to try to acquire food in the surrounding villages? He answered by telling the disciples to give the people something to eat. Then He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish the disciples brought to Him, and He blessed the food. Breaking the bread, Jesus told the disciples to pass the baskets to the people as He continued to fill them with food. Everyone was able to eat until they were satisfied. The disciples then collected the baskets as Jesus instructed and found there were 12 baskets full of food left over. Five thousand men, plus women and children, were fed that evening.

The Lord Jesus had seen the needs of the people and felt compassion toward them. He put the plans He may have had for the evening aside to generously care for the needs of others. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever—He has compassion for us and provides for us abundantly.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

As you prepare for the lesson, read through Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; and John 6:1–15. Spend time praying, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the narrative your children will hear. Think of times God provided for you in your own life. Have you ever faced a lack of money for the month and watched God provide the funds just in time? Have you ever experienced extreme discouragement and felt God heal your heart? If appropriate, tell these stories to the children, and pray that the Holy Spirit would use what you share to transform them.

Pray that God will use you to bring the kids into times of experiencing Him, both at church and at home with their families. Pray that your kids and parents will be transformed by their encounters with God, that they will know Him better, and that they will respond to Him with faith and obedience.

Small Group
SECTION

EXPLORE::: 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

Multiplying Fruit

In this part of The Big God Story, Jesus performed a miracle and fed all the people who had gathered to hear Him. God provides for us too.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Apple Tree image (see Resources)

- Apple 
- Apple corer
- Tray

SET UP

Place the materials on the table, with the apple and corer on the tray. Place the image underneath the tray to be shown later.

RELATE

Welcome children and gather them at the table. Show children the apple. **What do I have here? Yes, it's an apple! Who likes to eat apples? Or apple pie? Or applesauce?** Interact with answers. **Apples are a delicious fruit. How many apples do I have? That's right, one apple. Did you know that one apple can help grow thousands more apples? Let's take a look inside.**

Use the apple corer to core the apple safely. Have a couple volunteers take turns removing the seeds from the apple. Lay the seeds on the tray for the children to see. **How many seeds are there?** Count seeds with children. **What can we do with these apple seeds so that we can make more apples? Yes, plant them in the ground! Then after some time, water, and sunlight, the seed will turn into an apple tree!** Show children Apple Tree image. **Did you know that one tree can make five hundred apples in one year? And it lives for 15 to 20 years! Wow, that's a lot of apples just from one tree! So if we planted all of the seeds from this one apple and took care of the trees for many years, we would have thousands of apples! Isn't it amazing that God made little apple seeds that can make so much food for us?**

DISCOVER:: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Ponder Point

God Is Provider

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)

RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Mail Time intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Mail Time envelope art \(see Resources\)](#)
- Envelope (large)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Mail Time envelope art and attach to a large envelope. Print or copy one Remember Verse card and put it inside the envelope.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image. Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with children.

Lead children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

**Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.**

Psalm 147:5

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Understanding: Things you know

Limit: End

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Great is our Lord: Make “L” with right index finger and thumb. Move the “L” from right shoulder to left hip.

and mighty in power: Bring arms up to strong man pose.


his understanding: Place open palm at forehead and move outward.

has no limit: Shake head.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- What’s/It: Loaf of Bread (see optional image in Resources) 
- Wardrobe of Wonder
- Small stools or chairs (2)

What’s/It: Loaf of Bread

The Lord Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish and multiplied them to feed more than five thousand people. This miracle shows us that out of His compassion for us, Jesus cares for our needs.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image*. Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What’s/It by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect*. Have him whisper the identity of the What’s/It in your ear to ensure she knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’s/It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’s/It from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

(Insert child’s name), **what do you think a loaf of bread is doing in the Wardrobe of Wonder?** Volunteer will respond. **What do we do with bread?** Give children a moment to answer and offer ideas. **Who here likes bread? Pretty much everyone, I bet. There’s nothing better than bread when you’re really hungry! I wonder if the What’s/It has something to do with what we’re going to hear today from The Big God Story. Friends, what do you think? We’re about to find out, because do you know what time it is?**


The Big God Story

Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15

God Is Provider

Storytelling Technique: Audience Participation through Sounds and Response

SUPPLIES

- What’s/It: Loaf of Bread (see optional image in Resources) 
- Stadium Crowd image (see Resources)

- [Fish and Loaves of Bread image \(see Resources\)](#)
- Bell
- Optional: basket

SET UP

If you have a real loaf of bread as your What'sIt, place it in the basket and set it within reach of the Storyteller.

RELATE

Hello, friends! It's so good to see you today! Before we jump into The Big God Story, let's quiet our voices and rest our hands and feet as we close our eyes and talk to God. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. Then open your Bible and begin to storytell.

I'm going to need all of you to help me act out part of The Big God Story. When I ring this bell (hold up bell), it means you have a talking or acting part coming up, so make sure you pay attention. Let's practice. When I ring the bell, everyone will say, "Good morning, (insert your name)." Ring bell and have children repeat. Very good! I think we're ready for another part of The Big God Story.

One day, after many, many days of teaching people and healing those who were sick, Jesus went in a boat to the other side of the lake. When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large group of people gathering. Pretty soon, there were thousands of people! Tech: Cue Stadium Crowd image. Talk with children about number of people in stadium, imagining same number in crowd gathering to see Jesus. **Wow, that's a lot of people! Jesus welcomed the people. He knew they'd come a long way to see Him because they wanted to hear more of what was true about God. They trusted what He told them. Jesus cared so much about the people and talked with them for many hours about God's love for them. He also showed them God's love as He healed the sick and hurting people who came to see Him. He did this because He wanted to show them that God is Provider. Do you know what provider means? Pause for responses. A provider is someone who gives people what they need.**

After many hours, the sun began to go down and it started to get dark. Everyone was getting very hungry. Ring bell. Everyone said, "We're so hungry!" Children repeat. The disciples didn't know what they should do; they only had two fish and five loaves of bread, which was nowhere near enough to feed so many people. Ring bell. The disciples said, "Jesus, how can we feed all of these people?" Children repeat. Jesus told the people to rest on the grass. He asked His disciples to bring the five loaves of bread and the two fish to Him. Show kids loaf of bread in basket or Tech: Cue What'sIt image. Jesus took them, looked up to heaven, and blessed the food. Then He began to break the bread into pieces and fill baskets with the food. Begin to tear bread into pieces. Optional: Invite a couple leaders to help you tear bread and pass it out for children to taste. (Be aware of allergies.) The disciples took the baskets and passed them around to all of the hungry people.

Who was providing all the food for the people? Children answer. Yes, Jesus was using God's power to feed the people, because God is Provider. Remember, Jesus started with only two fish and five loaves! Tech: Cue Fish and Loaves of Bread image. Can you count to two? Let's do it together. Count to two along with kids. **That isn't very many. What about counting to five? Let's count to five together.** Count to five along with kids. **That isn't very much either! Jesus performed a miracle by feeding more than five thousand people with how many fish? Children answer. And how many loaves of bread? Children answer.**

Soon, everyone had eaten until they were full! Ring bell. Let's see everyone's full and happy faces. Children show happy faces. **The disciples picked up all the baskets and brought them to Jesus. They had 12 baskets filled with leftover food! Jesus had given the people more than enough! Do you know how many people Jesus fed using just five loaves of bread and two fish? Children respond. Over five thousand people! Now, how did that**

happen? Pause for answers. **It was a miracle!**

Just like Jesus provided for the need of all of those people, God provides for your needs too. What are some things you need? Interact with children's answers. Yes—food, clothes, a home, and people to take care of us. All of these are things we need. God cares about these needs and will provide for us in ways we can see and also sometimes in ways we can't see. What about love? Do we need love? Kindness? Joy? What else? Get suggestions from children. Yes! God provides for our needs every day because He cares about us very, very much. That's one way He shows us His great love. God is Provider.

RESPOND:: 20 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- [TruWonder Small Group Enhancements timeline and images \(see Resources\)](#)
- Scissors
- Crayons

RELATE

In today's part of The Big God Story, Jesus cared so much for the people that He spent all day teaching them, healing them, and caring for them. When it came time to eat, He used only two fish and five loaves of bread to provide for all of the thousands of people. God is Provider.

I wonder ... How would I have felt watching Jesus do this miracle?

I wonder ... What are some ways God cares for my needs?

I wonder ... How does this part of The Big God Story make me feel about God?

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)

RELATE

Today each child will have the opportunity to bless another child in the small group. Gather children together in a circle, and encourage each child to place his left hand on the shoulder of the person next to him. This is the person he's going to bless. As the leader, begin by speaking this blessing to the child on your left: (Child's name), **Jesus loves you and cares about your needs.** Then the child you just blessed can turn to the child next to her and repeat the blessing. (For younger children, feel free to shorten the blessing to, "Jesus loves you" if necessary.)

Once every child has had an opportunity to speak the blessing over someone else, close your time with a corporate blessing. Invite children to place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up. This is a posture that demonstrates our willingness to receive from God.

Children, may you remember each day to look for ways God provides for you.