

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 08 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Miracles of Jesus / Jesus feeds 5000 people
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** John 6:1-14; Matthew 14:13-21
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus is compassionate

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that Jesus takes care of our needs and blesses us with more than we need.
- To encourage kids to show compassion for people like Jesus did.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with a water sprayer inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Packed 'brunch' (e.g. lunchbox containing a sandwich, biscuit, crisps, drink, apple, etc.)
- ✓ Lunchbox with 5 small loaves/scones and 2 sardines
- ✓ Unopened tin of sardines
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>Jesus in My Life / I Love You</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get a mat and sit down.	You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)
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B. Message 15 minutes 1. Recap Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the water sprayer you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain why you used it last week and what it should remind us of today. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of Jesus calming the storm and what it teaches us – if Jesus has the power to control the wind and the waves, then surely He has the power to take care of us in our 'storms'. If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3</i> Finish by eliciting the concept: Jesus is God. 2. Set the scene <i>Before the session, prepare a packed 'brunch' in a small bag or box. It could include, for example, a sandwich, a biscuit, crisps, a drink, etc. Give it to an adult helper to keep in the meantime. Your adult helper should be informed before the session of what they are to do with the packed 'brunch' – see below.</i> Boys and girls, I slept in this morning. When I realised what time it was, I jumped out of bed, quickly got washed and dressed, ran down the stairs into the kitchen to have a super-quick breakfast ... but when I opened the cupboard, the cereal box was empty. When I looked on the shelf, there was no bread. When I looked in the fridge, there was only a bag of salad and some pickled onions, and I really couldn't stomach that in the morning. Well, there was no more time, so I got my things together and hurried to get here on time, and I made it! There's just one thing ... I'm absolutely starving! My tummy's making terrible noises because it didn't get any breakfast. It feels like it's starting to eat itself! <i>Have your adult helper interrupt you at this point. They should tell you that they didn't have time for breakfast either, so they brought some food with them to The Island. They should offer to share the food with you. Bring your helper to the front, invite them to sit down with you and open up their package of food. Tell the boys and girls that you hope they don't mind if you and your helper eat in front of them. Spend a few minutes eating together, chatting and laughing. By this time, the kids should be annoyed that you're not sharing your food. Tell them there's not enough food to go round everyone. Finish eating and thank your friend for sharing with you.</i> How did you feel when we were eating in front of you and not sharing? It wasn't very nice of me to do that, sure it wasn't? I was just	You'll need ... <i>Treasure chest / water sprayer</i> <i>Packed 'brunch'</i> <i>Adult helper with packed 'brunch'</i>
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pretending today, but if you remember how unfair it felt for you and how unkind you thought I was, then *you* will remember to share with people, right? Today I want to tell you about someone else who shared.

3. Tell the story

One day, Jesus got into a boat to cross over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee – the same sea where the storm blew up that we heard about last week. He wanted a little break from all the people who followed Him around Galilee because He was feeling sad. But the people of Galilee saw Him out on the water. They had seen how Jesus had been doing marvellous things and they wanted to be near Him, so they ran along the shore and followed the boat carrying Jesus. When the boat reached the other side, Jesus walked up into the mountains and sat down with His disciples, the twelve men who He had chosen to be His followers and students.

When Jesus looked up, He saw a massive crowd of people hurrying towards Him. Jesus had come here to get away from the people, but they had found Him. If that had been me, I probably would have jumped up and run away down the other side of the mountain so I could get some peace and quiet away from the crowds. But not Jesus! Even though Jesus wanted some quiet time, when He saw all those people, the Bible tells us He had compassion on them. Can anyone tell me what *compassion* is? *Compassion* is when you feel sorry for someone and you want to be kind and help them. Jesus was compassionate towards the crowds of people and He went around talking to them and making the sick people well again. No wonder they followed Him – this man, Jesus, could heal sick people from their illnesses and diseases!

More and more people were joining the crowd to see Jesus, so many people it was almost impossible to count them! The Bible tells us there were about 5000 men, and they brought their wives and children with them, so there were thousands of people there! It was starting to get dark and Jesus' disciples started to worry. They knew that this crowd of people were from all over Galilee. Out here in the mountains, they were far away from home. The disciples went to Jesus and said, "Jesus, we're pretty far away from the nearest town, and it's getting late. Look, you can see the sun getting lower in the sky. Let's send the crowds of people away so they can stop off in the towns and villages and buy some food."

Jesus said to the disciples, "The people don't need to go away. *You* give them something to eat."

The disciples looked at Jesus as if He was mad! One of the disciples was called Philip. Philip said to Jesus in disbelief, "How on earth can we give the people something to eat? If I saved all the money I get paid for eight months to buy food for these people, there still wouldn't be enough bread for 5000 men plus their women plus their children!"

In the meantime, there was a little boy who could hear the disciples talking to Jesus. He heard how agitated and worked up they were getting about giving the people something to eat. The little boy looked around at the thousands of people. He thought about the packed lunch he had brought with him in his bag. He knew it wouldn't feed

<p>everybody, but maybe Jesus and His friends could share the lunch around a few of the hungriest people? The little boy wanted to help, even if it only made the smallest difference. He went and pulled on a disciple's coat. This disciple of Jesus was called Andrew.</p> <p>Well, Andrew took the little boy to Jesus. "Look," he said, "this little boy has five small loaves of bread and two fish. But I don't think it will feed too many people!" <i>Show kids a lunchbox with five small loaves or scones and two sardines in it. Let them smell the fish.</i></p> <p>Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down on the grass." It took a while for the message to get around those thousands of people, but soon they were sitting down. Then Jesus took the loaves of bread and the fish and He thanked God for them. Jesus broke the bread and gave it to the twelve disciples. The disciples broke their bread and gave it to the crowds of people sitting on the grass. He broke the two little fish and gave it to the disciples. The disciples broke their pieces of fish and gave it to the people. Boys and girls, that day, every single person sitting on the grass in the mountains with Jesus had enough to eat! No one was hungry, everyone had a good meal and their tummies were full! Jesus' disciples then walked around and they picked up twelve baskets full of pieces of bread that were left over! The people knew that Jesus was a special man indeed. What an amazing miracle! Who could have imagined that Jesus could make tea for thousands of people from just five small loaves of bread and two little fish?</p> <p>4. Explain</p> <p>Jesus could have walked away from the people because He needed some quiet time. He could have just given them a tiny piece of bread each and sent them away like the disciples told Him to. Not Jesus. Jesus was full of compassion. He felt sorry for the people and wanted to help them, so He gave them as much food as they needed with plenty left over.</p> <p>Boys and girls, Jesus sees you and me and He is full of compassion. He loves us and wants to help us. Our greatest need is to be forgiven for our sin. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven by dying on the cross. When we ask Him to forgive us, and when we believe in Him as our Saviour, then He comes to live with us as our best friend and He is the way we get to heaven.</p> <p>Maybe you think you don't have much to give to Jesus. Think about the little boy in our story. He only had a small lunch to feed thousands of people – an impossible job, but with Jesus, everything is possible. When we put our trust in Jesus, He takes us and makes us into something wonderful. He is always with us, helping us to be great and powerful workers for God and His Kingdom!</p> <p>Let's put some fish into the treasure chest to remind us next week of our amazing story. Jesus performed a miracle with the little boy's lunch. Jesus can do amazing things when you and I believe and trust in Him too!</p>	<p><i>Lunchbox with 5 small loaves/scones and 2 sardines</i></p> <p><i>Treasure chest Unopened tin of sardines</i></p>
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C. Prayer Net	10 minutes	You'll need ...
1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to		<i>Net (with last week's prayer</i>

<p>God and He listens.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things. 5. Ask kids to imagine they are sitting on the grass with Jesus. Jesus has helped many people. Ask them what they want to talk about with Jesus today? 6. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 7. Encourage kids to believe in the power of Jesus to take care of our needs. Perhaps you could give a personal example of when the Lord has provided for you. 8. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 9. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group. 	<p><i>cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. Sing a closing song. (<i>I Love You</i>) 3. Challenge kids to remember that the same Jesus who fed 5000 people with a little basket of food is the same Jesus who takes care of us today. Challenge kids to be like Jesus – compassionate and kind enough to share with others. 4. Remind kids to come back this evening. 5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>7 minutes</p> <p><i>You'll need ...</i> <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 08 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making individual loaves of bread.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse through a fishing game.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Activity:
 - Oven – pre-heated to 220C
 - Tables lined with baking paper
 - Pre-made loaves/scones in different shapes – recipe below
 - Batch of pre-made raw bread dough in a mixing bowl
 - Decoration – e.g. chocolate chips, raisins, sugar lumps
 - Lined baking sheets
 - Spatula
 - Oven glove
 - Plates
 - Food tongs
 - Paper bags
 - Optional:* Recipe cards (template included in materials)
- ✓ Memory verse task:
 - Small inflatable paddling pool, or basin, or large bucket
 - 7 cut-out card fish – each one with a section of the verse written on it; each one with a metal paper clip attached to its mouth
 - I am
 - the bread of life.
 - He who comes to me
 - will never go hungry,
 - and he who believes in me
 - will never be thirsty.
 - John 6:35
 - Fishing rod (e.g. length of cord attached to a bamboo cane, with a magnet attached to the loose end of the cord)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag collection box

Recipe for Soda Bread (author's own recipe)

Ingredients

550g plain flour
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
approx. 450ml buttermilk
half a teaspoon salt
a little fresh milk
25g sugar

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 220C. Lightly grease a baking tray, or line it with baking paper.
2. Mix dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre.
3. Pour in most of the milk and mix to a loose dough, adding more milk if necessary.
4. With floured hands, knead lightly on a floured surface.
5. Option 1: Shape the whole batch of dough into a flattish round. Cut a deep cross into the top.
6. Place on the prepared baking tray and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 200C and bake for a further 25 minutes.
7. Option 2: Shape the whole batch of dough into a flattish round and cut with a cookie cutter or a glass to make scones. Or, break the dough into smaller pieces to be shaped into 'loaves'.
8. Place on the baking tray and bake for 15-20 minutes.

8. Help kids shape their dough and encourage them to decorate their loaves as they wish. 9. Lift each child's bread onto lined baking sheets using a spatula. Tell kids: when your bread is baked, we will put it into a bag for you to take home. 10. Place bread in a pre-heated oven and bake for about 15 minutes. **Take note of the time it goes into the oven.** 11. Tidy up and put the tables to the side.	<i>Lined baking sheets</i> <i>Spatula</i> Pre-heated oven (220C)
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<p>G. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <p><i>"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have kids stand in a circle around the room. <i>Explain:</i> Boys and girls, we made our own bread today to remind us of the 5 loaves of bread in the little boy's lunchbox. What else did the little boy have? Two small fish. We're going to learn a new memory verse now, but we're going to have to work together to do it. We're going fishing for our verse! <i>Put a small inflatable pool, or a basin or bucket, in the centre of the circle of kids. Before the session, you should have placed 7 card fish in the container, each fish with a section of the verse written on it, and with a large metal paper clip attached to the mouth of each fish.</i> <i>Explain:</i> I'm going to give my fishing rod to someone. <i>Show kids your fishing rod (this can be a length of cord attached to a bamboo cane, with a magnet on the end of the line)</i> They can go to the 'pool' and try to catch a fish. When they have caught a fish, they should take it off the rod and keep hold of it. Then they can choose someone else to catch the next fish. Give the rod to a child and tell them to go fishing. Make sure they keep hold of their fish. Tell them to choose another child to go fishing and have them hand over the rod. Repeat until all the fish have been caught. <i>Explain:</i> Now we have a slight problem. We have all the fish, but they're not in the right order. Kids with the fish – come up to the front. Try to arrange yourselves in the right order. Everyone else – you can help them. When kids are standing with their fish in the correct order, say the verse through once. Have kids repeat it a few times with you, as a group and individually. <i>Explain:</i> Boys and girls, Jesus made the bread and fish enough to feed all those people because He felt compassion for them. He knew they were hungry and He wanted to help them. Jesus also wanted to teach the people something else, something more important. That's what our verse tells us. Jesus is the bread of life. When we get hungry, we have to eat food. It's a little difficult to understand, but in a way our minds and our hearts get hungry too. We need love and care, and most importantly, we need to be forgiven for our sin – and that's why Jesus calls himself the bread of life. When you have Jesus in your heart and in your life, He is compassionate, He takes care of you, He loves you and He forgives you – so you don't need to 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Pool, basin or bucket</i> <i>7 card fish (each with a section of the verse written on it; each with a metal paper clip on its mouth)</i> <i>Fishing rod</i></p>
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<p>look for anything else to make you feel good inside.</p> <p>9. Repeat the verse once more. Ask one or two kids to hold their fish behind their back. Have kids repeat the verse a few times, individually and as a group. Take one or two more fish away, and repeat until the fish are all gone, having kids recite the verse each time.</p> <p>10. Ask kids to hold their fish in front of them again and finish with a group repetition of the verse.</p> <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it in later sessions of this series.</p>	
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <p>1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (<i>I Love You / Jesus in My Life</i>)</p> <p>**The bread should be baked by now. Remove from the oven and transfer 'loaves' from hot baking sheets to cold plates.</p> <p>2. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes.</p> <p>3. Bring the plates of bread into your room and set on a table. Make sure the kids do not touch the bread as it will still be warm.</p> <p>4. Have kids line up next to the table. Let each child choose their bread and lift it, with tongs if needed, into a paper bag. Roll down the top of the bag for the child to carry it home.</p> <p>5. <i>Optional:</i> Give each child a recipe card so they can try to bake the bread at home with their family.</p> <p>6. Close in prayer.</p> <p>7. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Oven glove</i> <i>Plates</i></p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Food tongs</i> <i>Paper bags</i></p> <p><i>Optional: Recipe cards</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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