

BIG IDEA

Wow!
Jesus has the power to provide.

BIBLE

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand:
John 6:1–15; Psalm 25:1–10

LARGE GROUP TIME

Wow! Isn't STEM amazing? Magnets can make things stick or move. Gravity pulls us down and keeps us on the ground. Winds can provide gentle breezes or become fierce storms. Even with awesome chemical reactions, volcanic eruptions, and static electricity in this world, there is nothing as awesome as the power of Jesus! Let's explore and discover more about this amazing power!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | One, Two, Three, Multiply!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite the kids to pair up. Similar to playing the traditional "Rock, Paper, Scissors" game, kids will say, "One, two, three . . . multiply!" and then hold out a number of fingers on one hand. The first person to call out the correct product (the answer you get when you multiply two numbers) wins the round. Play best out of three, then either continue tournament style with the collective winners from each pair or let that be the end of the game. You can simplify this game by using addition instead.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Call out different operations (add, subtract, multiply) at random, or have them use two hands!
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Instead of having kids add or multiply the numbers together, have each pair take turns holding up a number of fingers, and the other person has to say that number out loud as fast as they can. Or have them count the combined number of fingers together.
- **Did you know that paper and scissors were once considered new technology?** Even rocks became technology when people found creative ways to use them as tools.
- **What does it mean to multiply?** To multiply means to take a number and add it together many times. For example, when we ask, "What is four multiplied by five?" we're really asking, "What do you get when you add the number four together five times?" . . . **and the answer is?** Twenty! Correct!
- Today's Bible story has some intense multiplication in it, but the answer might be different than what we might think!

- **ACTIVITY | Multipliers**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Similarly to “Amoeba Tag,” two kids start off as a pair, linking arms, trying to tag other kids. Whoever gets tagged has to link arms with the pair, and the trio goes off to tag new players. Once they tag another player and become a group of four, they break off into pairs and continue to tag as separate groups. Anytime a tagging group gets to four, they must break off into paired units. Keep playing until every kid is tagged, and begin again with a new pair being “it.”

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Give each kid a ball of play dough and invite them to break it in half. Then have them split each half into two pieces. Have them keep going for as long as they’re able to break off pieces. For kids who don’t like the feeling of dough, you can do this with paper.

- One of the easiest numbers to multiply is two, and in this game, we saw how two can quickly grow into much more!
- Great job being multiples of two out there. We’ll find out in today’s Bible story that two of something can become much, much more in the hands of Jesus!

POLL | Too Much, Too Little, Just Enough

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids respond to each question by holding their arms out to the side for “too much” and holding their thumb and forefinger about an inch apart for “too little.” For “just enough,” have them put two thumbs up. Note that these questions are general observations about the world they live in. Be mindful of how you ask these questions because some kids in your group might have urgent, unmet needs.
- Think about the following things and answer whether you think there is “too much,” “too little,” or “just enough” of these in your neighborhood.
 - Toy stores
 - Playgrounds
 - Zoos
 - Amusement parks
 - Places to swim
 - Ice cream
 - Trees
 - Traffic lights
 - Your favorite food
 - People you know
- For many things, it’s hard to say when it’s “just enough” because we generally want more – especially if it’s something we love. But God knows everything we really need and makes a way for us to have those things. Let’s see what Jesus did when people around him needed something.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | John 6:1–15 (Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage or tell the Bible story using the provided script below. Dress up (or ask another volunteer) as a quirky researcher named “Scientist Sam” who says “Wow!” a lot, using costumes and props from previous weeks. Prepare a chalkboard or dry-erase board with a bunch of complicated-looking math equations and graphs (like [this](#)).
- Wow! It’s great to see you all again! In case you forgot, I’m Scientist Sam and I can’t wait to share another mind-blowing story about the greatest power I’ve ever encountered in all my years as a . . . well, in all my years.
- **Do you know what this power is?** The power of Jesus. Correct! Wow! I thought I had you there.

- Want to hear more about this incredible power? **Let's read John 6:1–15 together.**
 - Wow! I'm not sure Andrew was expecting that when he brought a little boy and his little lunch of fish and bread to Jesus. It turns out that Jesus was able to multiply seven pieces of food to feed thousands. Thousands!
- The first time I read the story, I tried to figure out how that worked using all the mathematical equations I know!
 - (Start circling equations on the board at random and mutter mathematical terms.)
- I calculated all this using all the theories of multiplication . . . the circumference of five loaves of bread . . . apply the quadratic formula . . . the probability of two pieces of fish, and after solving for x . . .
 - (Jot down " $5 + 2 \neq 5,000$," adding a number of question marks at the end when it does not compute.)
- . . . Five plus two still does not equal five thousand! And that's just five thousand men. You could at least double this number if you counted all the women and kids that were probably there. And — this is interesting — there was a remainder of twelve baskets of bread!
- Jesus is so powerful, he can make something out of almost nothing! His miracle out on that hill defies even math. There is no experiment on this earth, no math equation I can solve, that can explain or imitate the amazing miracles Jesus can do. That's what makes his power so amazing!
- **Can I get a "Wow"?**

BIG IDEA | Wow! Jesus has the power to provide.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create large tangram tiles out of poster paper or a foam board (see printable). Invite one or two volunteers to the front and see if they can put the tiles together into a square to reveal the words of the Big Idea in order. If there's time, play a geometric shapes game and see how many [tangram puzzles](#) kids can solve. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Tangrams, which were invented in China a couple hundred years ago, are mathematical puzzles created by cutting a square into seven pieces:
 - 2 large right triangles
 - 1 medium-sized right triangle
 - 2 small right triangles
 - 1 small square
 - 1 parallelogram
- Using only these seven pieces, you can create hundreds of different shapes. Doesn't this remind you of how Jesus also used only seven pieces — five loaves of bread and two fish — to feed thousands of people?
- **Now, let's try building a square so we can read today's Big Idea!**
- Let's say our Big Idea together: **Wow! Jesus has the power to provide.**

ACTIVITY | Fibonacci Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a short clip from a video about the Fibonacci sequence like [this one](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#) Then play a game based on the Fibonacci sequence using paper plates and a single bulk item like buttons, clothespins, paper clips, coins, or pom-poms. Create teams of kids. For each team, set up seven paper plates in a vertical line and a container of a single bulk item. The objective is to fill up each plate in Fibonacci order by adding the number of items in the previous two plates (in order, the plates should have one, one, two, three, five, eight, and thirteen items inside them). However, each team member can only carry one item at a time, so the team has to work together to fill up the plates with the correct number of items, one person at a time. To simplify this activity, you can label each plate with the number of items they need to fill it with.
 - ✦ **PRETEEN HACK:** Level this up by adding up to ten plates per team. You can also play multiple rounds using different patterns like multiples of three (3, 6, 9, 12) or square numbers (1, 4, 9, 16, 25).

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Give each kid one cup with five to ten items. Then give them a second cup containing five to ten more items. Have them dump the contents of one cup into the other cup. Then have them dump everything out on the table and count the total. Point out how you now have so much more than you started with!

- The Fibonacci sequence is so fascinating because it really never ends because all you're doing is adding and adding and adding . . .
- That's like the limitless power of Jesus. In today's story, he had to feed a very large crowd, but the amount of food available was very small. First, Jesus thanked God because he knew what was about to happen, then started passing out the food. The way the food multiplied didn't make any mathematical sense! He took two fish and five loaves of bread and fed thousands and thousands of people until they were all full, and there were even leftovers.
- **Wow! Jesus has the power to provide.** Jesus knows what we need and can take care of it in unexpected and amazing ways!

ACTIVITY | Picnic To Share

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If possible, contact families beforehand and ask them to send one small snack that their kids can share with their small group. Otherwise, provide a "shopping" station where you have laid out some items. Invite each kid to pick one thing they'd like to share with their friends. Provide gloves and tongs and encourage them to serve each other. Be mindful of food allergies and notify parents as to what foods should be avoided for your group.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Many kids with disabilities are on low-sugar regimens. When serving snacks, swap out sugary foods for healthier options and confirm dietary restrictions with their caregivers in advance.
- Today, we heard an incredible story about a boy who gave his small lunch to Jesus, and Jesus used that small lunch to provide a meal for thousands of people. Now, let's share a little picnic together!
- Just like the little boy in the story, you each provided a small item for our little picnic, and now we have this big, beautiful meal to share together! Let's think of how we can extend God's power by helping others.
- **Wow! Jesus has the power to provide** for us, and we have the power to provide for others!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 25:1–10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create slides in Google Slides or PowerPoint with this Bible passage, in the translation of your choice, using a chalkboard template like [this](#). Have kids read the passage together or have someone read it for the group.
- In math, numbers only increase when they're added to. Jesus can do much more than anything we can figure out using equations and formulas – with just five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus could miraculously feed over five thousand people by increasing their numbers, and they still had twelve baskets of leftovers!
- Like this psalm reminds us, we can put our trust in God for all sorts of things. Verse 3 says that no one who trusts God will be ashamed. God will not only provide us with things we need like food but also other things like courage, wisdom, and guidance. When Jesus provided food for the people, he showed them that it was a good idea for them to put their hope in God!
- I'm sure that after that day, everyone was thinking, "**Wow! Jesus has the power to provide.**" Jesus will continue to because, as verse 10 says, God's ways are always loving and faithful!

VIDEO | Wow!, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Press Play](#).

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?***REFLECTION | Thought Experiments**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids add to the lab notebooks they created and started in Week 1. Have kids draw and write as they think about the prompts given.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *This week's topic might cause discomfort for preteens experiencing real and unmet needs. Keep an eye out for big feelings or emotions that may surface during discussion times. Keep kids aware that this is a safe space for them, and make a leader available for kids to talk to if necessary.*
- It's time for more thought experiments related to what we've been discussing today. Fill up your notebook with notes and doodles as you think about these things.
- **What are some things in your life that God has provided you with?**
- **Are there other things that you need that you can ask God to provide?**
- **What are things we can do while we wait for God to provide?**

RESPONSE | Problem Solvers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On a poster or dry-erase board, draw a simple word equation: "Jesus x You > Problem." Ask kids to start calling out things that people around the world might need (like food, water, clothes, homes, peace, safety, or hope) and list them below the equation. Then, brainstorm together some things that even kids could do to be part of the solution.*
- Math is mostly about trying to solve a problem. Whether it's trying to figure out a quotient for division or solving for the missing number x , we apply the rules of mathematics to find the solution.
- Lots of people in this world have needs, not just us. When we hear about the things other people don't have that we have plenty of, it should make us think about ways to help. **How can we be a part of solving real problems?**
- You might feel like you're too small to make a difference but remember, in today's Bible story, Jesus used the small lunch of a small boy to feed a huge crowd! When we give Jesus the things we have, he can do so much more with them than we could ever imagine.
- **Wow! Jesus has the power to provide . . .** and we can be a part of that equation!

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

- **"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids sit in a circle and try this word addition activity to practice the memory verse. Start with one kid who says the first word of the memory verse. The next kid has to say the first word and the next word. The kid after that has to now recite the first three words. Keep going until the last person is able to recite all the words of the verse. Repeat with a different starting point in the circle.*

PRAYER

- Wow God, you are powerful! You provide for me and meet all of my needs. When I feel like I don't have what I need, or enough of what I need, remind me that you love me and have the power to provide. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **What problem needed solving at the beginning of today's story?** *There were thousands of hungry people who needed food.*
- **What food was offered to help meet this need?** *Five loaves of bread and two fish were offered.*
- **What did Jesus do with the little boy's lunch to help feed the crowd?** *Jesus gave thanks to God and distributed the food. Miraculously, everyone had enough to eat, and there were twelve baskets of leftovers.*
- **Read Psalm 25:10. How can we respond to God's love and faithfulness toward us?** *We can follow God's instructions and keep putting our hope in God.*

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **What are some things that God provides?**
- **What are some things that we can ask God to provide?**
- **What does it look like when we have faith that God will provide?**

ACTIVITY | Calculator Bingo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using the provided [printable](#), ask kids to name things they would like to ask God to provide. List them all out on a large piece of easel paper until you have at least sixteen. Then, kids can fill their Bingo card (the empty calculator buttons) with the items they just brainstormed together, in any order they'd like. Afterward, cut out each item from the easel paper, fold them up, and put them in a container. Then, play "Bingo!" ~Have a small treat for the first person to get four in a row, but have everyone play until you call all the items, showing Jesus can provide all those things.*
 - *To save time, you can brainstorm a list in advance, create four different arrangements of the same items, and pass out completed Bingo boards to the kids.*
- **Wow! Jesus has the power to provide** all of the things we thought of together and more! Just look at how Jesus multiplied a humble little meal to feed a crowd. By my calculations, that is some incredible power. Wow! It's no wonder the number of people who followed Jesus multiplied, too!