

## WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE

Miracles

### **BIG IDEA**

Jesus can do anything.

### **BIBLE**

**Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand:**  
Matthew 15:29–39

## **ABOUT THIS WEEK**

Aquariums don't just introduce us to amazing creatures, they also remind us that anything is possible underneath the ocean. This week, we'll hear about the time Jesus did something that seemed impossible and fed four thousand people. Even though there wasn't enough food for everyone, Jesus knew exactly how to help. This story of how he cared for these people shows us that **Jesus can do anything**.

## **WELCOME TIME**

### **ACTIVITY | Fish Tag**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, start by putting an ocean sticker on each kid. Then, hand each kid a roll of ocean stickers (like [these](#)). Have them go around the room and stick a sticker on another kid's shirt. Keep going until they run out. Help kids count how many stickers they have on their shirts.
- Look at how many stickers we got! We started out with just one, but when we went around and shared, we ended up with a lot more.
- In today's Bible story, Jesus takes fish and bread and makes way more than he started with. It's going to be a *miraculous* story!

### **ACTIVITY | Marine Rescue**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, wrap pipe cleaners around ocean toys or figurines before kids arrive. One pipe cleaner per figurine should be enough. Have kids sit and unravel the pipe cleaners to "rescue" the animals and shells. This should be a quiet sensory activity.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers could accidentally poke themselves with the ends of pipe cleaners. Place the toys inside different containers with easily removable lids from which toddlers can "rescue" them.
- Sometimes, sea animals get stuck in seaweed or trash humans throw away. They need someone to come along and rescue them when this happens.
- In today's Bible story, we'll discover many people needed Jesus' help. Jesus showed he could do anything.

## **STORY TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE | Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (Matthew 15:29–39)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation Bible

storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Each time you say the word “miraculous” throughout the story, wave your hands and wiggle your fingers in an arch formation. Invite kids to join you.

- Well, hello there, friends! I’m so excited to share one more **miraculous** story with you!
- What was the super special word again? Mir-a-cu-lous.
- Remember, a miracle is something surprising (make a surprised face) and very hard to explain (point to the temple, making a confused face).
- Let’s dive in! In today’s miraculous story, we learn that Jesus spent much time with people. He went from place to place to teach people about God. He showed how much he cared about them by showing them miracles and being their friend.
- **Let’s give Jesus two thumbs up.** Jesus is the best!
- One day, he was teaching a large crowd, and it was getting late. The crowd was hungry. But there was not enough food for everybody. All they had was seven (shown on fingers) loaves of bread and a few small fish.
  - **Show me how you look when you are super hungry.**
    - What **miraculous** thing was Jesus about to do?
- Jesus gave thanks to God and began passing out the food. Here’s the **miraculous** part ... the food never ran out! There was enough food for everyone.
  - **Now show me how you look when you are super full.**
    - Thank you, Jesus, that was yummy.
- From a few small fish and seven loaves of bread, Jesus fed over four thousand people until they were so full there were leftovers.
- Everyone thought there was no way Jesus could feed all those people. But Jesus showed he was able to do anything. **Miraculous!**

### BIG IDEA | Jesus can do anything.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write this week’s Big Idea on a large piece of paper cut out of a fish (use outlines [like these](#)). Tape or glue the fish onto a blue sheet or plastic tablecloth representing the ocean. You may want to take a group picture in front of your completed Big Idea ocean.
- Our fish friend here is going to help us learn the Big Idea together.
  - **Jesus** (Sign language for “[Jesus](#)”)
  - **can do anything** (Flex muscles)

### VIDEO | *Miraculous*, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Cali’s World](#).

### ACTIVITY | Loaves And Fish Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, tear brown construction paper into quarters to represent bread, and prepare deflated balloons to represent fish (you can replace balloons with sponges if needed). You will need to fill two “baskets” (shoeboxes) with “loaves” and “fish.” Place the “baskets” at one end of the room. Separate kids into two teams and line them up at the other end of the room. One player from each team has to run to the “baskets,” grab one piece of bread and one fish, and come back to their team. Keep going until all the team members have one bread and one fish, or keep playing until the shoeboxes are empty!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide toddlers with a basket of play bread and fish (or any play food) for them to play with. Model for them how to pretend to eat the food and take care to disinfect anything that goes into a toddler’s mouth immediately.
- The people didn’t know how they would be able to have enough to eat from only seven loaves of bread and

a few fish. But because of Jesus, there was enough! There was more than enough! People ate as much as they wanted, and there were leftovers.

- **Jesus can do anything.**

## PRAYER

- Thank you, Jesus, for your miracles. You can do anything. Thank you for loving us. We love you. Amen.

## SHARING TIME

### SNACK | Fish And Loaves

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Serve Swedish Fish candy and crackers together in small paper cups.*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Swedish Fish candies are choking hazards for toddlers. Cut bread into fish shapes using a cookie cutter and serve with seedless jelly.*
- Our snack reminds us of our Bible story. Imagine that this snack never ran out, no matter how much we ate and ate.
- **What is one food you could eat forever?**

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Sit in a circle together. Pass around an ocean-themed stuffed animal so kids can take turns answering questions. The person holding the stuffed animal gets to speak.*
- **How many people came to listen to Jesus?** *Over four thousand people came. That's a lot!*
- **While Jesus was spending time with people in our Bible story, what problem came up?** *The people were hungry, and there was not enough food.*
- **How much food was there in the beginning?** *Seven loaves of bread and a few fish*
- **Was Jesus able to feed everybody? Yes!** *He thanked God for the bread and fish and passed it out. There was enough food for everyone, plus leftovers.*
- **Let's say our Big Idea together: Jesus can do anything.**

### ACTIVITY | Fish And Bread Jewelry

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a pipe cleaner and seven pieces of uncooked penne pasta (to represent loaves of bread). Have kids thread the penne through the pipe cleaner. Once finished, show them how to twist the ends together to secure the penne. Then twist the tips of the pipe cleaner together to form a fish tail. Attach a length of string for kids to wear as a necklace. Alternatively, cut out three small fish from colored card stock, punch a hole in the fish, and bead them through with the penne. Have kids wear it around their wrist as a bracelet. See a worked example [here](#).*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Use o-shaped cereal instead of uncooked pasta or beads. You may want to fold the ends of the pipe cleaners to make them blunt and safer.*
- Now we have something to wear daily so we never forget that **Jesus can do anything.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 77:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Baby Shark." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- **"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples."**

**PLAY TIME****ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

**ACTIVITY | Miraculous Dough**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide plastic or silicone placemats (or cover a table with a plastic tablecloth), playdough, and cookie cutters shaped like [fish](#) and [bread](#). Have them make bread and fish shapes to remember the miracle from today's Bible story.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers are still developmentally self-centered. They will want every toy and snack for themselves. They will want the attention of all the leaders to be on them only. Prevent potential meltdowns by providing ample toys and snacks—and grown-ups—in the room with them.

**ACTIVITY | Coral Reef Sensory Play**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Turn a [colander upside down](#) and have kids stick pipe cleaners through the holes. Afterward, they can string beads or dried pasta through the pipe cleaners and twist them into different shapes to create coral. Show a video [like this](#) for kids to learn about what kinds of animals live in the coral reef.