

Bible Story 34: JESUS BEGINS THIRD YEAR OF MINISTRY

SCRIPTURE: Feeds 5,000 With Boy's Lunch: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-13
Walks on Water: Matthew 14:22-34; Mark 6:45-53; John 6:16-21

MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 6:10 or PSALMS 56:3

BIBLE STORY:

In Capernaum, Jesus heard about John the Baptist's death. So Jesus and His disciples got on a boat, crossed the Sea of Galilee and went to Bethsaida, seeking a quiet place to be by themselves. The people saw them leave and ran on foot. They arrived ahead of Jesus and His disciples. Jesus felt compassion for them, taught them and healed their sick. They were in a secluded place. So that evening His disciples encouraged Jesus to send the people away. Why? So the people could go and get themselves some food.

But Jesus replied, **"No. Do not send them away. Give them some food to eat."**

Philip replied, **"We do not have enough money to buy bread for everyone. It would take eight month's wages to feed this crowd."** There were 5,000 men, plus women and children present.

Jesus asked, **"What food do we have?"**

Andrew replied, **"A boy is here who brought his lunch: two fish and five small loaves of bread."**

Jesus told His disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish and prayed, thanking God for the food. Afterwards Jesus tore the loaves of bread and fish into small pieces, and gave them to His disciples. They distributed the bread and fish to the multitude. Everyone ate and were satisfied. Then Jesus told His disciples, **"Gather up the food that is left over. Don't waste anything."** Twelve baskets of pieces of bread and fish were left over. What a miracle!

It was getting late and Jesus wanted to be alone. So Jesus told His disciples to get into the

boat without Him and cross to the other side. Jesus spoke to the multitude, telling them to return to their homes. Afterwards Jesus went up on a mountain side by Himself to pray.

Meanwhile His disciples headed in the boat towards Capernaum, which was on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. By this time it was dark. While the disciples were in the boat out on the lake, a strong storm came up. The winds were strong and waves crushed against the sides of the boat.

Jesus finished praying. Then He walked to the shore and continued walking on the stormy water, going to the other side of the lake. As Jesus walked on the water, He saw His disciples. He was going to pass by them, but they saw Him and they were terrified. They screamed, **"It's a ghost!"**

Jesus said, **"Calm down! Don't be afraid! It is I!"**

Peter said, **"Lord, tell me to come to you on the water, if it's you."**

Jesus replied, **"Come!"**

Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water towards Jesus. But Peter took his eyes off Jesus and began looking at the strong winds. He was afraid! He began to sink! Peter cried out, **"Save me, Lord!"**

Quickly Jesus grasped Peter's hand and held onto him. Jesus said, **"Why did you doubt?"**

Then Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat and the wind died down. It was calm. Those on the boat worshiped Jesus and said, **"Jesus, you are the Son of God!"**

They arrived safely on shore on the other side of the lake.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. The boy gave his lunch to Jesus, wanting to help. Reach out and help those in need.
2. The boy's lunch was small to feed the multitude, but Jesus multiplied the food to feed everyone. Even a small gift helps when there are a multitude of needs. Give whatever you can to help the needy, whether it's a small gift or large gift.
3. When Peter stopped looking at Jesus, he began to sink in the water. Have faith in Jesus. Look to Him for help through storms you face in your life. He will help you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus and His disciples go when he heard that John the Baptist died?
2. Why did the disciples want to send the crowd away? What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
3. Describe the boy's lunch. What did Jesus do with the boy's lunch? How many people ate?
4. After the people ate, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? How many basketfuls of food were left over?
5. Who are some people who need our help? How can we help these people?
6. What are some ways we can avoid being wasteful?
7. After feeding the people, where did the disciples go? Where did Jesus go?
8. What kind of weather came during the night? What did it do to the boat?
9. What did Jesus do when He finished praying? How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus? What did Jesus say?
10. What did Peter do when he saw Jesus walking on the water? What happened when Peter was walking on the water?
11. Tell of an experience when you were afraid.
12. Who can help us when we are afraid? How?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Talk about different kinds of lunches that we take to school, work, picnics, etc.
- Show a small loaf of bread and a fish or sardines. Ask if they would like to eat this for lunch. Then explain that a boy took bread and fish with him when he left home. It would be his lunch.
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

MISSION ACTIVITY:

- Choose a Mission Activity to do together. Examples:
- **Activity 1: "Basket Project"**
Place a basket in the room. Let each one bring food, etc. Afterwards take the basket of food to a needy person or family.
 - **Activity 2: "Surprise Baskets"**
Place one basket or several small or medium size baskets in the room. Let each one bring games, books, toys, crayons, pencils, puzzles, DVD's, popcorn, candy, etc. Afterwards take the basket(s) to a needy family, orphanage, or send to a missionary family.

BAKE:

- Bake and eat homemade bread together.
- Share some of the homemade bread with an elderly person, shut-in, friend...

ACTIVITY: "STORMY WEATHER"

- Talk about different types of storm weather, such as flooding, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, lightning storms...
- Discuss ways to protect yourself when these storms occur in your area.
- Discuss what to do if you are alone or separated from family members when a storm comes.
- Discuss ways to help people who have lost their homes, etc. because of a storm.

OUTING:

- Choose an activity to do together. Examples:
- **Activity 1:** Visit and tour a bakery, observing them make bread. Give a card in gratitude for their work.
 - **Activity 2:** Prepare a snack or lunch and go boating and/or fishing. Tell the Bible story aboard the boat.
 - **Activity 3:** Fix a lunch and go on a picnic together to a park or beach. If unable to leave your location, put a blanket on the floor and enjoy your picnic together!

AVOID BEING WASTEFUL:

- Ask: **"What does it mean to be wasteful?"** Discuss ways that the family or group can avoid being wasteful.
- Write these down. Challenge the group to try to avoid being wasteful.
- The following encounter ask for volunteers to share how they avoided being wasteful.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 14:13-34; Mark 6:30-53; John 6:1-13,16-21; Psalm 56:3

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Matthew 14:13-21	Mark 6:30-44	John 6:1-13	Matthew 14:22-34	Mark 6:45-53	John 6:16-21	Psalm 56:3