

**11.29.09/ Mark 6:30-44**

Materials Needed: a picnic basket

Opening Activity

Tell the children that we are going to pretend to go on a picnic together. Brainstorm and make a list of the items we might need to take with us (sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, drinks, etc.) Once everyone has had a chance to share, ask the children the following questions – If we had all of the things on our list, would it be enough food for everyone in our group? (probably) What if everyone in our church came to the picnic, would there be enough food for everyone? (probably not!) What if the whole town came to our picnic, would there be enough food for everyone then? (definitely not!) There is no way that one tiny picnic basket could feed a whole town! But that is exactly what Jesus did! Transition directly into reading today's passage.

Read Mark 6:30-44

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Question 1: How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them to feed the people? *Let the children answer, and then share some possible answers. Perhaps they felt like Jesus was asking them to do the impossible. Perhaps they thought Jesus didn't understand the situation completely and wasn't aware of just how many people were there. They may have been frustrated.*

Question 2: How did Jesus show his humanity in this story? *By acknowledging that our bodies have physical needs for food.*

Question 3: How did Jesus show that he was God in this story? *By multiplying the loaves and the fish into enough food for 5000+ people.*

Discussion

Can you think of a time when you were faced with something that you couldn't handle by yourself? Who did you turn to for help? What do you think would have happened if the disciples would have tried to divide the loaves and fish out by themselves instead of giving it to Jesus? Would there have been enough food?

In other places in the Bible, Jesus blesses bread, breaks it, and hands it out to people to eat. He tells us that His body is like the bread, broken for us to give us nourishment. What He means by this is that He became our sin when He died on the cross for us, and when we trust Him and the sacrifice He made for us, while we don't actually eat Jesus, we do get to have a part of Him inside of us: His Holy Spirit! This Spirit guides us and teaches us when we trust in Jesus. So when we hear how Jesus fed 5000



people after blessing the bread, breaking it, and handing it out, we are reminded that Jesus is the real bread, the real life, and that He gives us everything we need!

Wrap Up

When we realize that Jesus gives us everything we have and we trust Him with it, even a little bit is more than enough! Whether it's faith, money, food, or talents, Jesus can multiply it into something amazing that will bring glory to Himself! Close in prayer by acknowledging that with Jesus, anything is possible. Pray that we would not hold anything back from Jesus and try to do things our own way, but always look to Him first and foremost for guidance.