



CROWN™

Advancing God's Principles of Stewardship and Life.

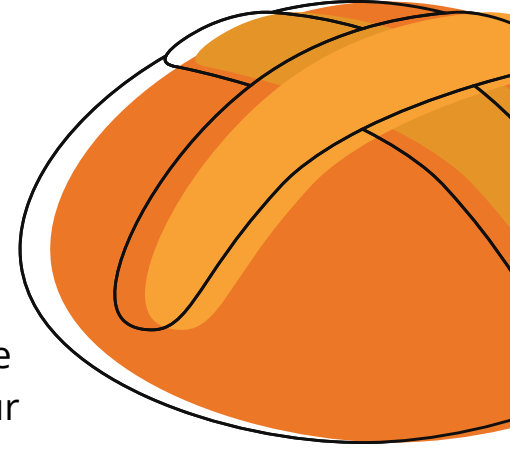
HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Worship at Home with CROWN

Topic: John 6: 1-14, Jesus feeds the 5,000



DEVOTIONAL



Read John 6:1-14 out loud. After reading, try using some of these conversation starters to spark some ideas. Your family may have some of their own ideas they are ready to talk about. Use this time to let your children process how the story made them feel and what it made them think about.

Spark a Conversation:

- I wonder how hungry the people were getting?
- How might the disciples have felt when they saw people were hungry?
- Why do you think Jesus asked Philip where to buy food?
- Why was the boy willing to share his food?
- Why did Jesus have a kid be part in this miracle?
- I wonder what the boy's name was?
- What did the people feel like when Jesus was able to feed all of them with so little?
- How did the disciples feel when they collected all the extra food?

Reflection:

This passage reminds us that we need to trust God, even when it seems like it will be impossible for things to work out. There is no way the people in the crowd could have known that Jesus would be able to multiply the bread and fish to give them food. And we can be the same way; sometimes it is hard to imagine how God can change our situation. Thankfully, we have the Bible to remind us that God is the ultimate creative problem solver!

This passage also shows us that when we give what we have to God, He can do more with it than anything we could ever imagine. That little boy must have had a lot of trust in Jesus to give him all of his food! It's easy to think that what we can do or what we have isn't big or important enough to make a difference in this world. But, when we do good works in God's name He can take control and make miracles out of something as ordinary as a loaf of bread.



FRESH AIR

Let your children explore the idea of picking up the baskets of bread with this easy to prep game.

Supplies: 12 pieces of paper, numbered 1-12

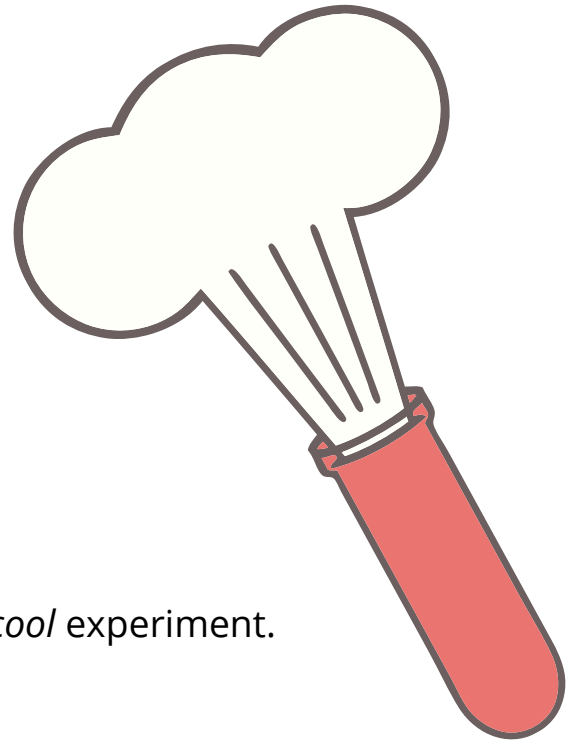
Read John 6:12 - 13, "When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.' So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten."

Take your numbered pieces of paper and lay them out in the yard. To start, put them in a medium sized circle in numerical order.

Now it's time to be like the disciples and collect all twelve "baskets". Have your child run as fast as they can to pick up each piece of paper in order. To alter this game for children who are not yet counting to twelve, have them simply pick up all the paper. After each round, make the game more difficult by moving the pieces further away and switching up the order. For an even greater challenge, have your child close their eyes while you lay out the papers.

Note: If it's particularly windy you can switch out the paper to twelve of any item or weigh them down.

IN THE LAB



Growing Ice Experiment

Explore how you can 'multiply' ice with this *cool* experiment.

Supplies:

Bottle of water (do not use a glass bottle)

Cup of ice, preferably with a wide mouth

Large drip tray (you can use a cookie sheet or a large tupperware container)

1) Lay the bottle of water down in the freezer for a little under three hours. You want the water to get extremely cold, but you should remove it before it freezes. For an extra colorful experiment, add some food coloring to the water. Just be sure the lid is on tight!

2) Place your cup of ice on the drip tray, this next part can get a little messy!

3) Very carefully remove the bottle of water from the freezer. Slowly pour it onto your cup of ice and watch as the ice grows into towers! You can create one large tower or move it around to create several.

Making the Connection:

- Were you surprised that the ice would grow that way? When has God surprised you?
- How was the cold water turning into an ice tower like Jesus turning the loaves and fishes into a huge meal for thousands of people? How was it different?

FAITHFUL FINANCES



Whose is it?

Look around you and think about what you see. Maybe a couch or your bed, the refrigerator, your leftovers from breakfast, and a lot more. Who owns all of those things? Your first thought may be that the person who uses them the most is the owner or whoever went to the store and bought them is the owner, but take a second to think back even further. As the creator of our universe, God is the ultimate owner of all things. God has given us everything we have, from our homes to that mismatched sock in the back of the drawer, and in return He has asked that we use it all for His glory. What does that mean? It means we have to be good stewards, or managers, of all our items. Imagine if a friend let you borrow something very special to them. They would probably ask you not to break it, to keep it clean, and not to lose it. God asks something similar of us. He asks that we use what we have to love other people as Jesus loves us.

That is a big task, but the first step is one you can make today. The first step to being a good steward is to realize that God owns it all. One way you can do that is to make a list of everything you have — from your clothes to your toys and even the pets you care for, and then give all of those things to God. You can use the next page to help you do that.

GOD OWNS IT ALL



Use this page to list everything that is yours. Instead of writing each individual item, you can use some categories like clothes or books.

God, I sign this page to show that I believe all these things are yours and to promise them to you. Please help me to steward them.

Signature

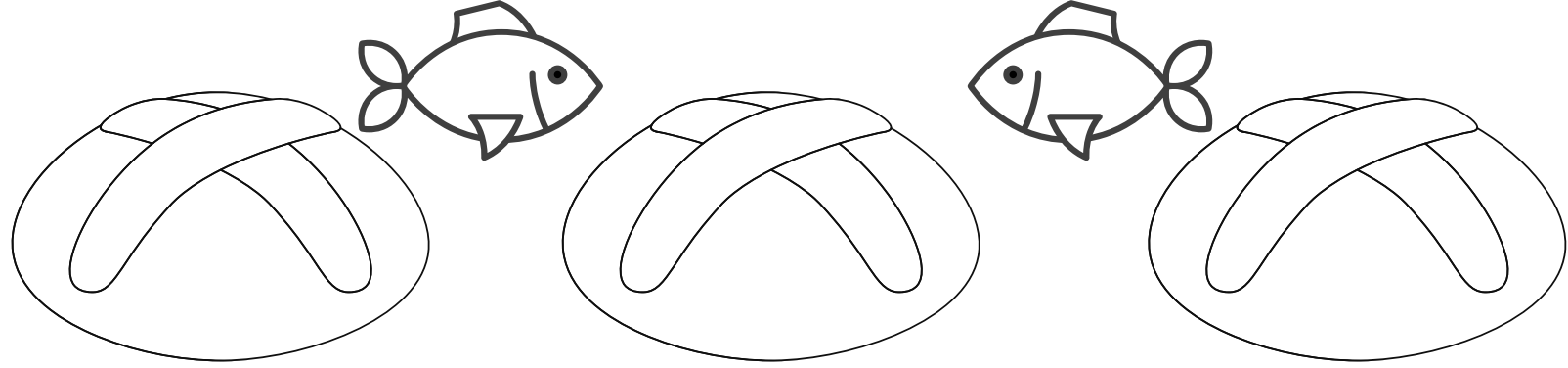
GIVING BACK

Just like the boy who gave Jesus his bread and fish, we can do a lot for God just using what we have.

This week, challenge yourself to serve someone else just using things you already have at home. You could send a letter to someone who needs company, make a special meal for your parents or a sibling, or come up with another amazing way to show God's love to someone who needs it. If you filled out the list of everything you have, you can use it for inspiration as you decide how you can help people.

Pray, and ask God to show you what He would have you to do.





"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. – John 6: 12–13

