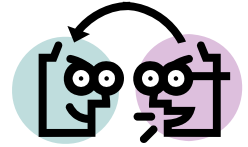


# Jesus Feeds the Crowd – Matthew 14:13-21

## – Grades K-2



Young children are still learning the virtue of sharing. In Jesus' miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish, we find an example of how abundantly God blesses acts of generosity and compassion.

### Materials Needed

- None

### Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Say: *Today we are going to talk about something that I know you all have already learned much about, sharing. What does it mean to share?* (Accept all reasonable answers.) *Think about a time when someone shared something with you.* Ask a few volunteers to share their story with the group. *How did you feel when your friend shared with you?* (Accept all reasonable answers.) *Now think about a time when you shared something with someone else.* Ask a few volunteers to share their story with the group. *How did you feel when you shared with another person? Is it easy to share what we have with others?* (Accept all reasonable answers.)
2. Say: *In today's Gospel we hear about a time when Jesus told his disciples to share their food with a large crowd of people. The disciples weren't sure that they wanted to share, and they told Jesus that they didn't have much food to share—only a little bread and a few fish. Has anyone ever told you to share what you had with another person? Did you think you had enough to share? How did you feel about being told to share? Keep these questions in mind as we listen to this story.*
3. Read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 14:13-21.
4. Ask: *How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus asked them to share their food with the crowd?* (Accept all reasonable answers.) *What did Jesus tell the disciples to do with the food that they had?* (He told them to bring it to him so that he could bless it.) *What happened when the disciples gave the food to the people?* (There was more than enough for everyone. They collected 12 baskets of leftover food, even after more than 5,000 people had been fed.)
5. Say: *Jesus performed a miracle that day, feeding thousands of people with just a small amount of food. Jesus' disciples never dreamed that so many people could be fed if they shared the little food that they had. Jesus showed his disciples, and us, how important it is to share what we have with others by performing this miracle.*
6. Conclude in prayer together. Encourage children to pray that God will help them to always share what they have with others. Pray the Lord's Prayer or the Prayer of Saint Francis.