



Living on Mission through Sacrifice

LEADER'S Review

SUPPLIES

Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs*
- Basket for offering*

OPTIONAL:

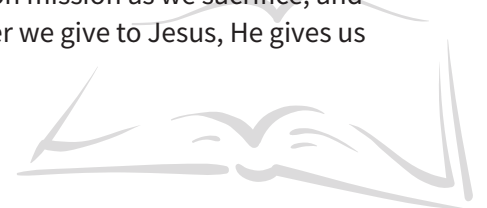
- Note to Parents about Missions Offering (1 copy/family)
- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons*

*These items will be needed every week.

In our relationship with God, He has been supremely generous. Jesus gave His all on the cross, so that we might know Him. Then He invites us to be a part of what He is doing by giving of our time, our treasure, our talent, and our experiences as a loving, sacrificial response. Sacrifice is hard, and it certainly doesn't come naturally, but we want children to understand that the opportunity to sacrifice by giving to Jesus is actually a great privilege!

This week, we are talking about living on mission by sacrificing and giving to Jesus. As you study the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, remember it all began with the sacrifice of a young boy, who gave his lunch to Andrew, a disciple of Jesus. Take a minute and imagine the story from the boy's perspective. As you do, think about how the boy would have felt as he saw Jesus take his meager lunch and use it in such a mighty way. Connect the children in your class with the privilege of sacrifice and how the boy's sacrifice enabled him to experience the power of Jesus first hand. In the end, the boy gave a little food, but he got to see Jesus in a big way.

We want to equip children to know the privilege it is to sacrifice by giving to Jesus. As you prepare, think deeply and practically of ways the children in your group can lovingly sacrifice for Jesus. Be authentic and acknowledge that sacrifice is hard, particularly when we are used to having things our own way. We must depend on the Holy Spirit to be able to die to our desires so we can lovingly sacrifice our time, our treasure, our talent, and our experiences for Jesus. Remind them that prayer is an important part of living on mission as we sacrifice, and that ultimately, whenever we give to Jesus, He gives us more of Himself!





Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (1-2 minutes)

John 6:1-14

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”



Prayer

If you’ve already completed the month on Prayer then the children have learned the Lord’s Prayer. Remind them that wise King Jesus taught us to pray saying, “Our Father, who art in heaven...” If you have not done the month on Prayer, use this time to pray for wisdom from Jesus. (2 minute)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Last week we talked about being on mission by serving and sharing, and the Bible story was about when four friends made the time and effort to bring their friend to Jesus.

Ask some review questions: (2-3 minutes for questions)

- Why did the friends bring the man to Jesus? *He had a sin problem and was paralyzed.*
- Did the friends give up when they couldn’t get to Jesus? *No, they went to the roof and lowered the paralyzed man to Jesus.*
- What did Jesus do? *He forgave the man’s sins and healed him.*

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

- How do you think the paralyzed man felt when he met Jesus? *Happy. Jesus changed the man's life.*
- Do you think it was easy for the four men to carry the paralyzed man? *No, it would have been a sacrifice of their time and energy, but working together would have made it easier. Probably none of the men could have carried the paralyzed man alone.*

This week we are talking about being on mission through sacrifice. Let's pray first. Dear Jesus, sometimes when we hear the word sacrifice, it sounds like something we do not want to do or even can do. We know when You ask us to sacrifice, it's not with burning things on an altar but with thinking about You and others before we think about ourselves. Give us hearts to make the sacrifices that please and glorify You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

It was a miracle. Jesus took the little boy's lunch and fed over 5,000 people! It wasn't much. Normally, five barley loaves and two fish were only enough food for one person. I wonder what made the little boy **sacrifice** his lunch. Maybe he just heard that Jesus was asking for food. Maybe, at the request, the little boy was eager to give to Jesus, thinking that by sharing his lunch, he would get to feed the teacher. Maybe, when the disciple Andrew asked the boy for his lunch, he thought he would go hungry because of his **sacrifice**. Do you think he knew what Jesus would do with his lunch? **(Let the children share.)** Maybe, maybe not. I mean it was just an ordinary lunch, until...

Jesus. Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and passed out the five barley loaves and two fish; only in the hands of God, a little became a lot! A little became more than enough. A little became overflowing until twelve baskets were filled with the leftovers.

Back in Moses's day while the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness, God fed Israel "bread from heaven." In this miracle from today's Bible lesson, Jesus was saying more than "Have lunch on me." The multiplying of fish and bread was a reference to God's provision in the desert *and* a picture of God's power and grace that revealed Jesus is the Christ, as the Bread of Life.

By feeding the multitude, Jesus showed the crowd then, and us today, that He is our Provider. The crowd didn't really understand that Jesus could provide for much more than their hungry bellies, and honestly, many of them probably didn't deserve the free meal they got that day, but that's grace, getting something good you don't deserve. Today, we know more than they did then, because we have the Bible, the Old and New Testaments. We know that Jesus doesn't just want to feed us a meal; Jesus wants us to have a relationship with Him forever.



Missionary Connection

Sacrificing for All People

We don't even know the little boy's name, but we know about his **sacrifice**. How do you think the boy felt as he saw them gather up the twelve baskets of leftover food? (**Let the children share.**)

You know, when the disciples went to the crowd looking for food among 5000 people, many people probably had some snacks or food they could have offered. Only the boy is recorded in Scripture as willing to **sacrifice** his lunch. Afterwards, as the boy sat with a full belly, maybe then he realized Jesus was much more than a good teacher. As he saw the crowd fed by his **sacrifice** in the hands of God, maybe the boy understood he had been a part of something much more than a free lunch.

Maybe, it wasn't until after Jesus died on a cross and then rose again, the boy fully understood who Jesus was. I hope he did continue to follow Jesus, don't you? As we look back on the boy's **sacrifice** recorded in Scripture, we know he was a part of something with eternal importance. Even today, we are blessed by what the nameless boy did.

When we live on mission, giving to Jesus isn't something we "have to do"; it's something we "get to do." It can still be hard, but when we **sacrifice** what we want or need, we leave a hole or space in our lives. The miracle is God fills up that empty space, and we get more of God, which is better than anything we had before. Our sacrifice actually enables us to enjoy God, and that's why giving to Jesus is really a *privilege* because we get to join God in what He is doing; we get to be a part of something big and eternal.

We also may get to see God use our sacrifice in the lives of those He has called us to love. Like the boy, God can take our little and make much from the gift of our time, our treasure, our talent, and our experiences as they are used by God to advance His Kingdom and bring hope to those living in darkness.

Ask some review questions: (1-2 minutes for questions)

- How much did the little boy give? *His whole lunch: 2 fish and 5 small barley loaves*
- When the boy sacrificed his lunch, do you think he knew what Jesus would do with it? *No*
- Did the apostles think that was enough food to feed all the people? *No*
- What did Jesus do? *He had the people sit down, thanked God, broke the food, and passed it out to the people.*
- How much was left over? *Twelve basketsful. Jesus took the boy's little sacrifice and used it to make something really big!*
- Did anyone leave hungry? *No, everyone ate until they were full.*
- What are some things you have to give to God? *My time, my money, my experience, my talent, my family, my energy . . . (Have children think about other things they can offer to God.)*

(Missionary Connection—Continued)

ACTIVITY: Play “Fishes and Loaves.”

You will need:

- **4 small plastic fish**
- **10 small dinner rolls or loaves of bread (These can be plastic too.)**
- **2 medium-sized baskets**

Divide your group into two teams. Give each team two small fish and five small loaves.

Have the two teams stand on opposite sides of the room and take turns trying to throw the fish and loaves into the basket from across the room. Adjust the distance depending on the ages of your teams.

To Play: You can mix it up.

- **Have the two teams race against the clock, with each team member trying to throw one item in the basket until they are all in the basket. Pass out one item to each person in line and have them take turns throwing. If someone misses, the next person in line gets to try. If something lands in the basket, it stays until you begin the game again.**
- **Let each person try to throw all seven things in the basket and count each item that makes it in as a point. Let everyone on each team have a turn or two depending on time. Tally the points at the end, or have the team compete against itself instead of each other.**

After you are done playing, read this MTW missionary story:

In one day, six thousand refugees landed in Greece, fleeing war and fighting that had made them leave their homes. Most carried their only possessions in their hands. They were hungry and tired and afraid, and that’s when they met Kay, an MTW missionary serving refugees in Europe. “When you hand a cup to someone, it’s very intimate. It’s one-on-one, eyeball-to-eyeball; usually your fingers touch. These ladies who had escaped war and crossed the sea were sitting down, and we were serving them. They probably felt like normal people for the first time in who knows how long.”

God took Kay’s small sacrifice, and those of the other MTW missionaries and Christians, and is using them in big ways! In the Church in Greece, historical enemies have become brothers in Christ because of the gospel, and they are often seen serving each other. A small cup of tea has resulted in God literally uniting the nations in His Church!

(For a detailed version of this story and pictures of the missionaries, go to: <https://mtw.org/stories/details/1206-a-historic-opportunity-how-mtw-is-responding-to-the-refugee-crisis-in-greece>)



Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

*Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.*

(vs. 2 of “Take My Life, and Let It Be”)

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