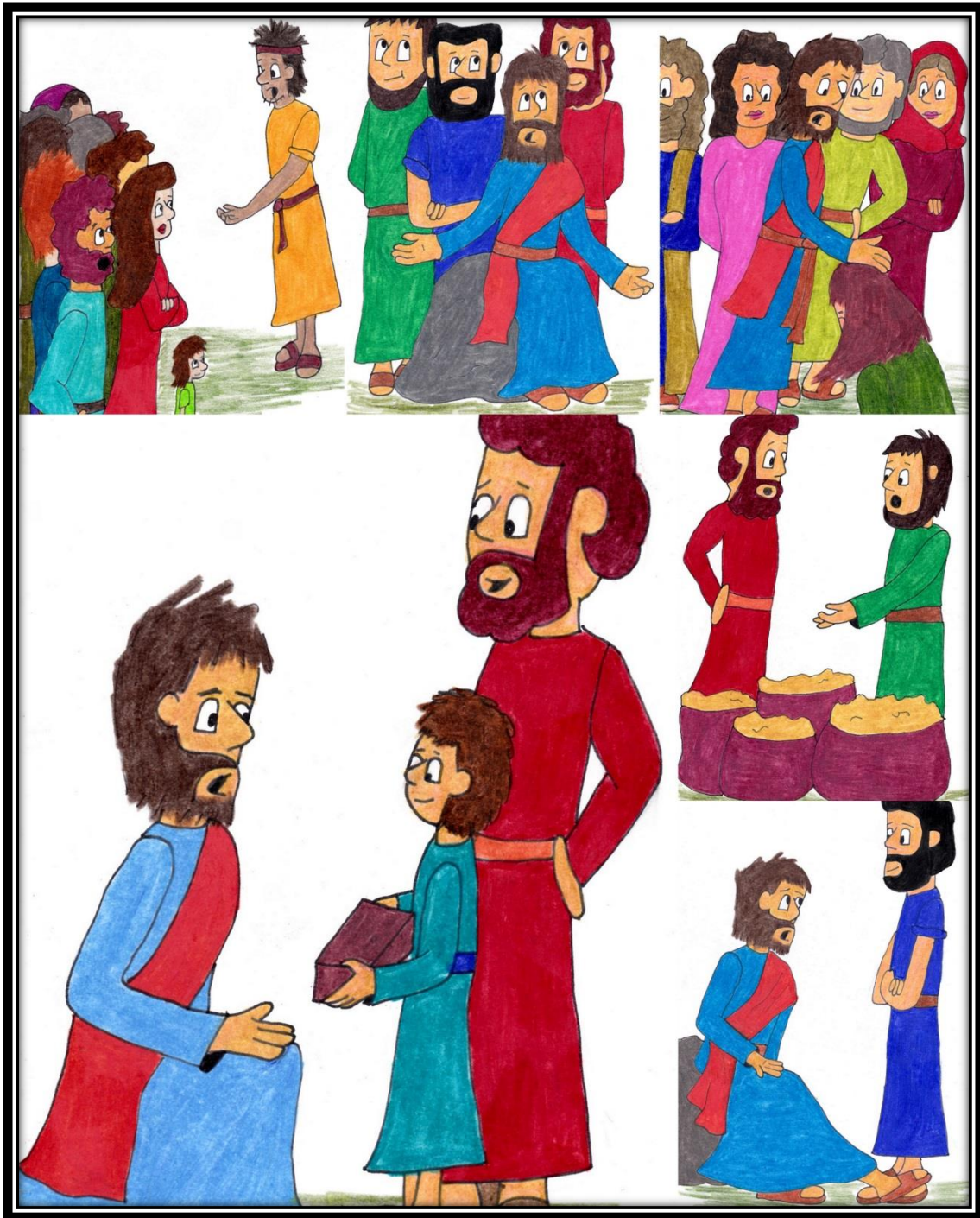


# Jesus feeds the 5000

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44;

Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13







Jesus and his disciples had been working hard to spread God's word. But it had been tiring.

The 12 disciples had gone out on their own and worked many miracles. They'd healed people, and cast out demons. But in some of the towns people didn't like what they were saying.

News had recently reached Jesus that his cousin, John the Baptist, had been beheaded by Herod. Jesus was saddened by this.

All of this together was causing Jesus and the disciples to need some time alone. No matter where they went the crowds followed.

Finally Jesus pulled his disciples aside and said, "Let's go across the river. We need some time alone to rest and recover. Time to focus on God."

They all loaded up into the boat and started to travel across the lake.





As they crossed the lake word spread that Jesus was going to the other side of the lake.

People started running from village to village saying, “Jesus is coming to this side of Galilee, let’s meet him.”

Others said, “Maybe he’ll heal us. There have been so many accidents.”

Gradually the crowd gathered, by the time Jesus and the disciples reached the other side they were confronted by a multitude of people.





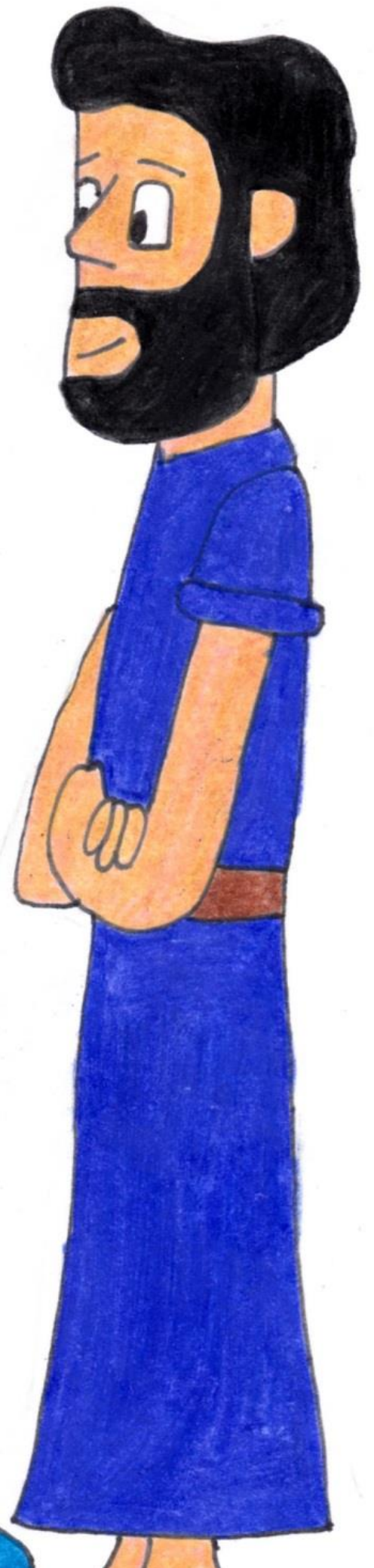
Jesus saw the great crowd and had compassion on them, “Look at them,” he said to his disciples. “They are like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus looked over the crowd and loved them.

“We will serve them,” Jesus announced and he went out into the crowd. He stopped and healed a man with a broken leg. Another was moaning in pain, and Jesus touched him and the man was healed.

Slowly Jesus walked through the crowd up the hill. He healed so many people, and gave hope to so many. Everyone was watching Jesus, waiting to see what he would do, what would he say.

Jesus reached the top of the hill and he started to teach. We don't know what he taught, it's not written down, but we can imagine what was said that day. Words of how much God loved them, how God had a plan to save them from their sin. That even God's chosen people were sinners.







Jesus taught for hours. The sun started to go down, and Peter interrupted Jesus, “Rabbi, we need to send them home. There are too many for us to feed. They can go back to the villages, and you can teach them some more tomorrow.”

Jesus looked out over the crowds and shook his head, “You feed them.”

Peter looked at the other disciples in shock, motioning to them to say something,

Philip stepped forward, “Um... Lord, we only have 200 denarii, and that’s not all that much. It’d get food for 300 people, maybe.”





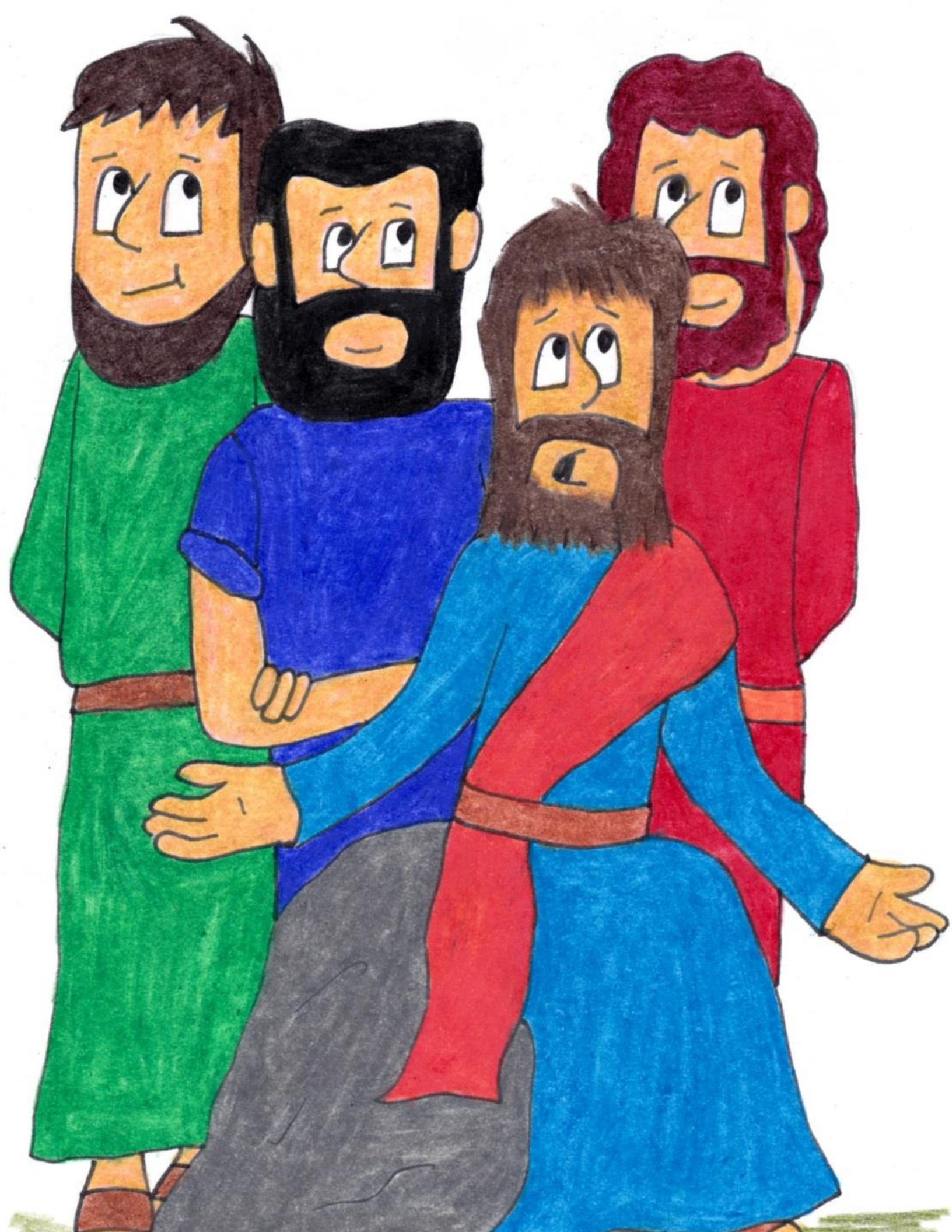
“How much food do we have?” Jesus asked.

Peter looked back and all the other disciples shrugged their shoulders. Finally they searched it out, and discovered a young boy who had brought his lunch.

“This boy here has five loaves of bread and a couple of fish,” Peter said. “That’s all we’ve found.”

“Tell the people to sit down in smaller groups,” said Jesus.

The disciples started to put them in groups of 50 and 100 people together.





Then Jesus took the bread and the fish in his hands, and looked up to heaven. “Lord God, we thank you for all you gave us. Thank you for this boy who shared his food. Thank you for the food we are about to eat.”

Then Jesus broke the first loaf of bread in half, and passed the two halves to Peter and Andrew. Jesus took another loaf and broke it in half, passing it to Thaddeus and Levi.

Jesus kept breaking bread and fish into small pieces and passing it out, and the disciples kept delivering food to the people.





Slowly but surely everyone had food. The people ate until they could eat no more. At the end the disciples gathered up the bread and the fish into baskets.

They were amazed to discover they had 12 baskets of bread and fish left over.

Then they looked over the crowd and did a count of the groups. “Peter, did you see how many there were?” Andrew said in wonder, “I counted 5000 men, and I couldn’t even begin to count the kids running around or the women here as well.”

When everyone was done eating they headed back home, amazed at all they had seen and learned that day.

# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. Why did Jesus and the disciples decide to go away on the boat? What do you do are feeling overwhelmed?
2. How did Jesus react when He saw all of the people on the other side of the lake? Can you switch gears when you don't get what you want? How do you react to changes in plans?
3. What was the disciples response when Jesus asked them to get food? Do you think they were confused by Jesus' questions?

## Middle Kids

1. Why did Jesus and the disciples want to be by themselves? Read Matthew 14:13 and Mark 6:30. Is there a time when you are too tired? Can you tell when you need to take a break?
2. Read Luke 9:11 and Matthew 6:33. What did the crowd want from Jesus? What did they do when they heard Jesus was coming? Have you ever reacted with that much excitement to something?



3. Read Ezekiel 34:11-12; John 10:14 and Mark 6:34. How is Jesus like the shepherd talked about in these verses in this story?
4. Read John 6:5-11. Does Jesus care if we are hungry? What other examples can you think of to show Jesus cares about how we feel?

### Older Guys

1. Read Matthew 14:13, Mark 6:7-12 and 30, Luke 9:1-6 and 10, and John 5:16-18. This is what has been going on prior to the events in this story. If all of that had been going on in your life, how would you be feeling?
2. Read John 6:3. When Jesus was teaching in this story who do you think He was teaching to?
3. Read Mark 6:34; Jeremiah 23:4; Genesis 48:15; Isaiah 40:11; Ezekiel 34:4-5; Ezekiel 34:10-16; and John 10:14. Why do you think Jesus had such compassion for the crowds in this situation? What modern day comparison could you draw between Jesus and the crowds? Is there one?
4. Read Mark 6:37. How do you think Jesus intended His disciples to solve this problem? How were they approaching it? Do you ever discover you're approaching problems wrong?

## Activities

1. Read the stories of Elijah and Elisha in 1 Kings 17:10-16 and 2 Kings 4:1-7 and 42-44. How are these miracles similar? How are they different? Which would you be more impressed with?
2. Have fish sticks for lunch and some good bread. Imagine sharing your lunch with Jesus and not knowing if you would get lunch in return.

## Online

1. Loaves and fishes craft- <http://ver70.blogspot.com/2011/09/jesus-miracle-of-loves-fish.html>
2. Feeds the 5000 games online- [http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/jesus\\_feeds\\_five\\_thousand\\_index.htm](http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/jesus_feeds_five_thousand_index.htm)
3. Jesus Feeds the 5000 Bible lesson- [http://www.truthforchildren.net/images/pdf/John\\_6\\_FeedingFiveThousand.pdf](http://www.truthforchildren.net/images/pdf/John_6_FeedingFiveThousand.pdf)