

8 Jesus loves me

Jesus feeds a crowd



Play time



Teddy Bears' picnic

You will need: a picnic (either play or real), toy tea sets, teddies, blankets.

Help the children to spread out blankets, arrange teddies and set out the picnic. You could advertise this beforehand and encourage everyone to bring their own toy to the picnic. Let the children set everything out and enjoy serving and 'helping' the toys enjoy the picnic. They will enjoy imagining the food and drinks, but if you wish you could use play food or some real snacks.

Dough play

You will need: play dough.

Help the children to mould and make food for a picnic. These could be used for the Teddy Bears' picnic (above) or as props for the story, to be shared out (bread and fish shapes). If using salt or baking dough, cook the items before next time so you have hardened models for future play.

Sandwiches

You will need: sliced bread, rounded spreading knives, margarine, sandwich fillings, paper plates.

In a clean working area, and with clean hands, let the children spread slices of bread with margarine and a flavoured spread, then place another piece of bread on the top to make a sandwich. Have a range of fillings available so children can choose their favourite.

Nursery numbers

Sing or say nursery rhymes and songs which encourage counting, particularly twos and fives. Try: 'Five fat sausages', 'Five currant buns', 'Five little ducks went swimming', 'This old man', 'Once I caught a fish alive', 'Round and round the garden', 'Two little dicky birds'. Count sets of five and two objects. Count fingers, toes, eyes, ears, hands, feet, arms, legs.

Game time



Let's go together

Play a game based on 'Going on a bear hunt'. All line up and follow a leader on a trek round the room. You will need some helpers mixed in among the children to keep them reasonably close together.

- Use the traditional bear or lion hunt wording as you go through long grass, over rivers and quickly home again.
- Go on a journey round your room or building and back again, describing what you see as you go, and making up actions and sound effects. Work out your route beforehand and think about which features to highlight.

•Pretend to be the people who followed Jesus one day to hear him speak, and who ate bread and fish with him, then went home again. Begin: 'We're going to follow Jesus, walk walk walk...'

Any of these variants can be played while walking on the spot; or even sitting and clapping to simulate walking along.

Making time



Small loaves

You will need: packets of bread mix, bowls, baking trays, paper towels/napkins, cooking facilities, an extra adult helper.

Make sure the cooking area, the equipment and the children's hands are clean. Keep the children away from hot areas and have an adult responsible for using the oven.

Follow the instructions to make up the bread dough before the session or involve the children as much as possible in the process. Give each child a fist-sized piece and let them knead and shape it. Place

each shape on a baking tray, leave to rise; then cook it. When cool, wrap each child's loaf in paper to take home.

If you do not have cooking facilities, make sandwiches using fish-flavoured spread and cut them into fish shapes with pastry cutters.

Story time



One little lunch

You will need: five small bread rolls and two fish (canned or pretend!) wrapped in a cloth.

Here is a story about a boy who lived a long time ago. This boy kept hearing about a man called Jesus. Jesus sounded exciting! Jesus told interesting stories! Jesus made ill people better!

The boy decided to go and hear Jesus. His mum gave him a packed lunch, wrapped up in a little cloth. She gave him five little loaves of bread and two fish. 'Yummy, thanks!' said the boy, as he set off up the hill.

He followed the crowds of people and soon he saw Jesus standing in front of lots of people, speaking to them. The boy squeezed through the crowds and sat down. What wonderful stories he heard! Jesus was so interesting! The time flew by!

The boy's tummy started to rumble. Some other people nearby looked a bit hungry too. He heard Jesus' helpers talking. They looked worried. There were so many people, but there was no food. The boy opened his lunch. (*Open up your cloth bag.*) He had plenty of food for himself. Should he share it? He stood up and walked to Jesus' helpers. 'Excuse me,' he said, 'I have a little lunch here that I could share.'

The helpers said, 'Thank you.' They took the lunch to Jesus. It was enough food for a hungry boy. But there were more than five thousand people there that day. (That's too many to fit inside this room, even if they were all standing up: lots and lots of people!)

But Jesus didn't worry that there wasn't enough. He took the food and said a prayer. Then he started to share it out to the people nearby. The boy watched. Soon someone handed him some bread and

Jesus gave food to people who were hungry.

Are you hungry? Draw your favourite food on the plate or cut-out and stick on pictures. Do you like bread and fish, like the boy in the Bible story?

John 6:
1-13

My name

