

LESSON PLAN

A BOY'S LUNCH

John 6:1-15

Lesson Memory Verse: John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever."

Lesson Aim: Jesus will give us everlasting life when we receive Him as our Savior.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE - BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many of you have been to a church picnic? What did you do at the picnic? (Played games, talked with friends as we enjoyed the fresh air, ate food, sang some songs, listened to some people give their salvation testimonies, heard a message from a preacher) Who brought the food? (Everyone brought some food and it was shared it with one another.) How many people were at your picnic? Did you have enough food? In the Bible story today I am going to tell you about a boy whose little lunch fed over 5000 people. Maybe you have heard this story before, but listen carefully and I think you will learn some new things. But before I tell that story, let us look at our memory verse.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse talks about bread, but it is a different kind of bread than what we put into our mouths. The bread we eat with our mouths is needed to make our bodies strong, but the bread in our memory verse is needed to save our souls from Hell and keep them strong against the sins of the world. We need both kinds of bread, but the bread for our souls is most important. Jesus was speaking in our memory verse and He said, "I am the living bread." That tells us that He is alive. Since He will live forever, He is able to give us a life that will live forever. But how do we eat this living bread? How do we eat Jesus? It is simple. Just like we receive ordinary bread into our mouths, we receive Jesus into our hearts and lives by asking Him to be our Savior. When we want to be rid of our sins that will take us to Hell, and when we believe Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, we simply ask Him to come into our lives to save us from Hell and make us strong against sin. That is how we eat the living bread.

He is living bread that came down from Heaven when He was born in Bethlehem. He is the Son of God, so He is God, the Son. He is our Creator, so we can be sure that He will keep His promise to give us eternal life when we receive Him into our lives. Have you eaten the living bread? If you have, you shall live forever. If you have not, remember, it is more important to receive Jesus into your heart and life than it is to receive any amount of food into your stomach.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our Bible story today we will see how a boy's small lunch fed 5000 men plus women and children.

I. The Multitude - John 6:1-5

Jesus took His disciples to a mountain to be by themselves (Mk 6:31-32), but over 5000 people followed Jesus. They had seen Him heal other people by doing miracles, and they wanted Him to heal their sick, too (Mt 14:14). Jesus kindly healed those that were sick and taught the people about the kingdom of God (Lk 9:11).

WE: We do not have to search for Jesus; we can be with Him anywhere in the world (Mt 28:20). But He promises to do that only for those who receive Him as living bread. Then we will see Him do great things for us and our friends. It is exciting to have Jesus in our lives.

II. The Money - John 6:5-7

When it was time to eat, Jesus asked Philip where they should go to buy enough bread to feed this great crowd. He knew what He would do, but He was testing Philip. Instead of answering Jesus' question about where to go for the bread, Philip said that they would need as much money as one could earn in 200 days of common labor to feed each of them just a little food. Now, if Philip had

LESSON PLAN

answered Jesus' question as to where they should go to buy the food, he should have said that they should go to Him. He was the one who would provide enough bread to feed everyone. Then Philip would not have been so concerned about the amount of money it would take to feed them.

WE: We should not worry about problems that come upon us in life; we should leave them with Jesus to solve (Mt 6:25-34). Since He provided living bread for us, we can count on Him to provide ordinary bread and all the other things that we need to live and do His work. If He wants us to work, He will provide the job. If we need more than what we can earn, He will have someone provide the money that we will need. He will solve our problems when we trust Him.

III. The Meal - John 6:8-9

When the disciples realized that they did not have enough money to buy all the bread that they needed, Jesus told them to go and see how many loaves they could find in the crowd (Mk 6:38). Andrew came back with the report that he had found a boy who had a lunch of five barley loaves and two fish. It would make a nice meal for a boy, but when Andrew thought about the size of the crowd, he knew this lunch could not feed this many people. Nevertheless, the boy was worthy of praise because he was willing to share his lunch with Jesus. And Andrew was worthy of some praise, too, because he found more food than the other disciples, even it was only a small meal.

WE: If we will give what we have to Jesus, even if it seems small and unimportant, we, too, will be worthy of praise. Jesus wants us to give Him whatever we have, whether it is big or small. We will rejoice when we share what we have with Jesus.

IV. The Miracle - John 6:10-14

When Jesus had the boy's lunch, He told the disciples to make the people sit down in groups of a hundred or fifty (Mk 6:40). Jesus wanted everything organized. Then they would more easily recognize the miracle. If the people were walking about looking for food, the miracle would be missed. Furthermore, this showed them that there were over 5,000 people there (Mt 14:21). After they were all seated, Jesus prayed and gave thanks for the five loaves and two fish. Then He gave food to the disciples and they gave it to the people. After they were done eating, Jesus told His disciples to gather up all the food that remained and put it into baskets. How many baskets of extra food did they fill? Yes, twelve baskets of food were collected after more than 5,000 hungry people had eaten all that they wanted. And all this food had come from a lunch of five loaves and two fish! Now the miracle was clear to everyone. Before this, they had seen Jesus heal people's bodies, but now they saw Him feed people's bodies. As a result they wanted to make Jesus their King, so He could feed this way every day. But the people were not ready to make Him their King. They needed to receive Him into their hearts as their living bread. This would heal their souls and make them children of God. Without receiving Him as Savior, He could never become their King. He did not want a kingdom of unsaved, selfish people. The next day He explained to them how they could receive this living bread, but many of them turned away from Him and refused to accept Him as their God and Savior (6:22-66). They gladly received the ordinary bread that gave them life for a short time, but they refused to receive the living bread that would give life forever. How sad!!

WE: We must not be foolish like those people. If they never received the living bread, they are in Hell today. We must receive the living bread to have eternal life. The most important miracle that Jesus can do for you is to come into your heart and make you into a new person that obeys Him.

BE (for Action): What kind of miracle did the people see Jesus do that made them follow Him to a certain mountain? (Healing people of their sicknesses) What two kinds of miracles did Jesus do for the people on the mountain? (Healed their sick and fed 5000 of them with five loaves and two fish) What miracle did Jesus especially want to do for them? (He wanted to give them living bread, but they refused to receive Him into their hearts and lives.) Has Jesus performed this miracle in your life to make you into a new person that loves and obeys Him? He will, if you receive Him as your Savior. He will give you eternal life. That is something you cannot buy. (With heads bowed, have the children raise their hands, if they want to receive Jesus as Savior.)