

# Meals with Jesus



A journey through  
Luke's Gospel

## Lesson 3 Big Picnic

faith **in** kids



9  
lessons

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Living Out ([www.livingout.org](http://www.livingout.org)) commissioned Faith in Kids ([www.faithinkids.org](http://www.faithinkids.org)) to produce these resources to help children understand Jesus' care for the marginalised. Visit [www.faithinkids.org](http://www.faithinkids.org) from November 2020 to download these resources.

These resources tie in with our book of family Bible times, 'Meals with Jesus'. Published by The Good Book Company.

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We recommend the International Children's Bible for use with children during the lesson. Our leader's notes use the New International Version.

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*'All for the glory of God alone'* (1 Corinthians 10:31)

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# Big Picnic

LUKE 9:10-17



## Big Idea:

Jesus is God who can satisfy all of our needs.



## Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who trust Jesus for all their needs, recognising that he is what they need most.



## Preparation

Pray and read the Bible passage. Read **Where are we going?** and **Win my heart first** to give you a better understanding of the passage and the **Big Idea**. Spend some time thinking through how this makes a difference to your life.

Read the lesson plan for the age group you will be teaching. Use a **Get Going** or **Brain Break** idea from a different age group if it is better suited to your children.

Prepare your lesson. Think through the **Take 10 minutes to focus!** questions before preparing your

**Teaching Time.** Use the International Children's Bible (which can be found online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)) for a simplified version of the text during **Teaching Time**. Keep the **Big Idea** in your mind to help you teach it clearly in every part of your lesson. Collect/draw/print/make what you need for the different sections of the lesson.

Pray for the children in your group to grasp the **Big Idea** and to live it out in their lives. Remember that you have the Holy Spirit's help as you teach God's word!



## Where are we going?

In the first two meals of this series, Jesus was the VIP guest. But in today's story, he is the host. Jesus wasn't one to have an elite guest list. His style was more, 'all welcome - the more the merrier!' At the centre of this showstopper miracle is a big truth - Jesus is God. He did what only God can do. He multiplied lunch for one to feed thousands. Like God in the Old Testament, he

fed hungry people in a remote wilderness. He was generous in his provision and he provided satisfaction. Jesus is God and there is no need that he cannot satisfy. We need to understand this as much as our children do. Let's not hold back as we wow them with the truth that God himself came down to save his people and to meet their deepest need.





## Win my heart first

It's the last bite of a delicious meal, a cup of tea at the end of a long day, the final tick on your to do list - that's satisfaction. When a need is satisfied, it feels good - but that feeling doesn't last. When a need isn't met for a long time, we feel like we're missing out or lacking something that could change our lives. Except, we already have what we need. Despite longing for different things, the answer to those needs is the same for all of us - Jesus. In this passage, Jesus provided a generous meal that satisfied - but he can give us more than just a full tummy. Being God, he deals with our deepest need for forgiveness and reconciliation to the Father. And then he pours out satisfaction into every crevice of longing we have. Our need to be loved, known, seen, cared for, provided for, comforted, understood - all satisfied by Jesus! This is the reality. So when it doesn't feel like it, examine where you are looking for satisfaction. Even if it meets your needs, it will be short lived. But Jesus can meet that need in a deeper, more loving and more generous way. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Take your needs to him and ask him to be the glorious satisfaction that you long for.

All the way through his book, Luke has challenged his readers to know that Jesus is God's Son - the Messiah. In 9:7-8, Herod asked the big question: who is Jesus? Is he Elijah? John the Baptist back from the dead? Another prophet?

**v12-13** The meal was hosted by Jesus. The disciples couldn't provide. They'd already forgotten about Jesus' previous miracles and how they had just been out doing amazing things in Jesus' name and power. When they were asked to provide this meal, they couldn't see a way. Jesus cared and acted.

**v14** It was an enormous crowd. There were 5000 men there, and that's not even counting women and children. Jesus invited the crowds to have a seat. He was welcoming. He didn't send them away in need. The word to 'sit' is more like 'recline'. It was as if he said, 'kick back, relax and enjoy the meal'.

**v16** There was a sense of the familiar as Jesus fed the hungry in a remote place. Many, many years before, God had fed his people with bread (manna) from heaven while they were in the wilderness (Exodus 16:4). There is also a sense of what is to come - Jesus took the bread, broke it, and gave thanks. At the Last Supper, Jesus would again be the host, providing for his people. And we look forward to the final, great banquet, where we will feast with Jesus, completely satisfied, forever.

**v17** This was a generous meal. All were satisfied and content. Isaiah had promised that one day God would freely feed hungry, thirsty and penniless people (Isaiah 55:1). The promise had been fulfilled. God had come down to satisfy the needs of his people.

Before this passage, Herod was asking, 'who is Jesus?' Afterwards, Peter knew who Jesus was (9:18-19). He understood that Jesus was God's chosen King. He saw all the ways Jesus' actions fitted with what the Old Testament had promised about the Messiah. Your children won't grasp all of this, but they can take away the big truth that Jesus is the one God promised - the one who sees, cares and provides for their deepest needs. We've already seen Jesus as a love-filled Saviour who welcomes sinful outsiders. Now, we see him as the Lord of all - the only one who can satisfy all of our needs.



## Question for my heart

Think about Peter's response to Jesus in v20, following this meal. What is it about this miracle that convinces Peter of who Jesus is? This story tells us that Jesus gives us all we need. Be honest with Jesus about what it is your heart craves. How does this story speak to those needs? How does Jesus promise to satisfy? How does the promise of the new creation speak to your craving for total and complete contentment in this area?



# Bible Story Idea

This has been written as an all-age slot to introduce the whole church family to what the children are learning today, but it could be adapted for the children's classes.



## Helpers Needed

Volunteers to play the parts of Jesus and 2 disciples.



## Props

Money, perfume, large cardboard loaf of bread (write 'Jesus is what we need most' in big letters on the back), picnic blanket, picnic basket, plasters, food in the picnic basket - 5 small rolls and 2 tins of tuna/pictures of fish, large bag of individually wrapped rolls.



## What to Say

We've had 2 meals with Jesus so far - first with the tax collector traitor Levi and his sinner friends. And then at Simon's house when Jesus had his feet washed by the sinful woman. Jesus welcomed the people that everyone else would have pushed away. We are hearing another exciting truth about Jesus from Luke's gospel today.

Today's story is about a really, really BIG picnic. That's why I have a very, very BIG loaf of bread. I really hope Jesus packed a BIG loaf of bread for his picnic. Let's find out...

The disciples had been going from village to village to teach about God's Kingdom. They'd been doing some amazing things. Now they were back, they wanted to have a catch up with Jesus to tell him all they'd done. So they tried to get away to a quiet place near a small fishing village.

But Jesus was pretty popular and when people heard where he was they all went to see him, hear him and get healed if they were ill. Jesus welcomed them all. He taught them about God's Kingdom and he healed the sick.



## What to Do

Hold up the money for Levi.

Hold up the perfume for the woman.

Hold up the large loaf of bread.

Jesus and 2 disciples join the scene. Holding a picnic blanket and a picnic basket.

Jesus and the disciples turn to the congregation and wave. Jesus pretends to teach animatedly and then goes and sticks a few plasters to some people.



## What to Say



## What to Do

Before they knew it, it was late. People had been there for ages.

What's that?

Thunder? No! It's the sound of hungry tummies!

Make a rumbling noise.

Jesus's disciples came to speak to him.

Disciple: 'Send everyone back home, they need to eat, and we are in the middle of nowhere.'

Uh oh! It looks like there is a bit of a problem. Lots of hungry people and no Tesco or Sainsburys around the corner for people to buy a Meal Deal. If only they had a very BIG loaf of bread!

Jesus replied.

Jesus: 'You give them something to eat.'

What? Did Jesus see the crowds? Did he realise that they were in the middle of nowhere?!

Hold up the large loaf of bread.

Disciples look surprised.

Imagine the disciples' brains trying to do the maths as they looked at all the food they had.

Disciple: '5 loaves of bread and 2 fish divided by...let me just count the people...(pretend to count the congregation) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7...153...3756...4999...5000! 5000 people! We can't feed everyone with this!'

Hold up the rolls and fish.

continued →



## What to Say

The disciples couldn't do it. 1 picnic could not feed 5000 people. But Jesus could. He took the food, gave thanks, broke the bread up and then the disciples gave it out.

Everyone ate. They were full and satisfied. There were even leftovers!

A big question was answered that day. Not 'what is for lunch?', but 'who is this guy?'

Only God can feed his people when there is no food. Only God can make something from nothing. But Jesus did that too. Because he is God.

He is God who came down to his helpless and hungry people. At that big picnic, Jesus gave them what they needed - a full tummy. But Jesus offers so much more than one miracle meal. He is the one who can fill us, satisfy us and help us. We need Jesus. He is what we need most. And when we have Jesus, we will be satisfied.

Let's pray.



## What to Do

Disciples run back and forth handing rolls to people in the congregation.

Hold up the BIG loaf of bread. Turn it around to show 'Jesus is what we need most' on the back.



# Lesson Overview



10 minutes to focus



Get Going



Teaching Time



Brain Break



Heart & Hands



## 10 Minutes to Focus

When preparing, keep these questions in mind and check your planning to see that you are ready to engage your group. Take that clarity into your **Teaching Time** so that you get the **Big Idea** across.



## Get Going

Focus the children's attention on the theme of the session using a game or activity. Light, not manic, so that the children can be calm afterwards, with their minds ready.



## Teaching Time

Teach the key content of the lesson in an engaging way. Place emphasis to point clearly to the **Big Idea**. If you have used the **Bible Story Idea** already, you may not need to cover the whole story again. If not, you can adapt it to use here with your group or tell the story in another way, perhaps using the suggestions below. However you do this **Teaching Time**, conclude with a simple explanation of the **Big Idea**.



## Brain Break

A chance to rest the children's minds before **Heart and Hands**. Get children moving. Finish by linking the activity to the **Big Idea** so that this time serves the Bible story.



## Heart & Hands

### Small group discussion:

The vital chance for the children to reflect on the story, so that its truths impact their hearts. They do the talking, not the leader. All the children need to be given the opportunity to respond. Ask each question to multiple children. The questions will lead the children to see how their heads (thoughts), hearts (feelings) and hands (actions) are shaped by the Bible story through the work of the Spirit.



# Explorers

## 3–5s



**Take 10 minutes to focus!** What do your children need? Many of their needs are met in tangible ways. How will you help them to see that Jesus is who we need more than we need a snack/a new teddy/a hug?



## Get Going

### What Do You Need?

#### You will need:

Pictures and objects that will help you explain what a 'need' is. Place the following in a bag – a teddy with a bandaged head, a baby doll, a picture of snowflakes, a picture of the sun. You will also need – a picture of a doctor, a baby bottle, a woolly hat, sun cream.

Lay the objects/pictures that aren't in the bag out for the children to see. Let the children take turns to take something out of the bag. Talk about what is needed – what does the teddy with a sore head need? Get the children to help you find the picture of the

doctor. Use the suggestions below and include more of your own to give each child a turn to take something out of the bag.

- What does a baby need when he is hungry? A bottle of milk.
- What do we need when it is cold and snowing? A woolly hat.
- What do we need when it is sunny and we are outside? Sun cream.

**Link:** The people in today's story were hungry. Jesus gave them what they needed, a full tummy.



## Teaching Time

#### You will need:

The Bible story illustrations (see **Appendix**), lots of teddies/toy figures, bread rolls (extra to share with the children – be aware of allergies and intolerances and have alternatives if needed), 2 cardboard fish, paper plate with a sad face drawn on the front and a happy face drawn on the back, picnic blanket.

Pretend you and the children are the crowd as you tell them the story. Use the illustrations to help them visualise what was happening at the different stages. Before the lesson, stick picture 1 up on a wall.

Explain that Jesus and his friends were alone but lots of people went to see him (pretend to spot Jesus and move to sit at picture 1). More and more people came to see Jesus (place the teddies/toys with the seated children). Jesus talked to all the people and he made sick people better (hold up a teddy and pretend it has a sore head that gets healed by Jesus). Everyone

started to get very hungry (make rumbling noises and get the children to rub their tummies).

Show picture 2. Jesus' friend's said that everyone needed to go home. They didn't have enough food for them (hold up the bread rolls and cardboard fish). His friends didn't know what to do (hold up the sad face paper plate). Get the children to ask each other, 'what are we going to eat?!'

Show picture 3. Jesus was going to help them. He would give them a very big picnic. (Place the picnic blanket on the floor. Act out what Jesus did with the food.) Jesus' friends handed out food and everyone got enough (give them each some bread). It feels good to eat when you are hungry (turn the paper plate around to show the happy face). Full tummies meant happy people!

Show picture 4. Can the children see the happy faces? Can they see the baskets of leftover food? There was too much for them to eat. Jesus helped a lot of



people that day. Everyone was hungry, and Jesus gave them what they needed – full tummies. Jesus made one lunch feed everyone. He did a miracle because he is God.

Finish by talking about how we need full tummies too but what we need the most is Jesus. He can make

us part of God's family – wow! That is why we need Jesus the most.

End with the memory sentence – 'Jesus is what we need most'. Get the children to repeat it back to you a few times.



## Brain Break


### We Need Jesus

#### You will need:

A box, picnic blanket, ball pit balls, paper plates, large card cutout of a crown with a 'J' in it

Stand with the children and the box of balls on one side of the room. Place the blanket in the centre and the crown on the opposite side of the room. Remind the children that the hungry people in the story needed food. Pretend that people are having a picnic on the blanket and the children must deliver their food

by placing a ball on a plate and taking it to the blanket – older ones could try to balance the ball on the plate without holding it down. Send children one at a time or go together if you are a small group. Once the 'food' has been delivered, ask the children, 'who do we need?' We need Jesus! Run to the crown. Take turns holding the crown and saying 'I need Jesus!'

 **Link:** We need Jesus. He can give us everything we need.



## Heart & Hands

### Craft Time - Make a 'Jesus is what we need most' wheel

#### You will need:

A copy of the craft template, cut out, for each child (see Appendix – option A is the suggested sheet for this age), split pins, crayons, glue, tinfoil/foil gift wrap, brown tissue paper.

Let the children colour and decorate their circles – stick foil to the fish and brown tissue paper to the bread. Place the circles together, pictures facing upwards with the small circle at the back – this stops the split pin falling out – and secure with the pin through the centre. Twist the cut end of the large bottom circle through the top slit to show that 'Jesus is what we need most'. This is your opportunity to make things personal for each child. Remind them that we need Jesus the most. He can make us part of God's family – that is better than our favourite food. Use this craft time to reinforce the **Big Idea** of the lesson to get them ready for **Think Time**.

### Think Time

Use the illustrations to remind the children of the story. Point to different parts of the pictures and ask them to tell you what is happening. Use the sad paper plate face from **Teaching Time** to ask the children what the hungry people needed. Use the happy side of the plate to remind them that Jesus gave the people full tummies. The people needed Jesus. We need Jesus the most.

### Big Question

What did the hungry people need? Food.

### A follow up question

Who do we need the most? Jesus!

### Pray

Dear Jesus, thank you that you helped the hungry people and can help us too. Thank you for giving us what we need most. Amen.



# Discoverers 5-7s



**Take 10 minutes to focus!** After Peter had seen this miracle he began to understand the amazing truth about who Jesus was – the son of God. How can you help the children be amazed by the same truth? How will that help them grasp that Jesus is what we need most?



## Get Going

### Pack the Picnic


#### You will need:

2 picnic kits – each kit needs: a blanket, plastic cups and plates, tupperware, water bottles.

Split the group into two teams. Place the 2 picnic kits in piles at one end of the room. Each group sends one child at a time to take an item from the pile before

bringing it back to the team. Once all the items are collected the team must set up the items and pretend to have a picnic. First team to complete the scene wins.

Ask the children what is missing from their picnic scene – food!

 **Link:** In today's story, Jesus provided all the food for an enormous picnic.



## Teaching Time

#### You will need:

Lots of toy figures/Post-it notes, individually wrapped rolls (enough for each child – consider any food allergies and intolerances in your group).

#### Prepare in advance:

Place groups of toy figures around the room. If you don't have many toy figures then draw stick people on Post-it notes and stick them in groups all around the room/on the floor.

Act out the story with the children as Jesus and his disciples. Look for a quiet place to sit, avoiding the 'crowds' of toys/Post-it note people around the room. Explain that people heard where Jesus was and they followed him there (get children to collect the toys/Post-it note people to make a crowd).

After the conversation between Jesus and the disciples (v12-14), let the children have a go at thinking of answers to the questions below. Would their ideas work? Can they see that the disciples didn't know how to feed all the people?

- If a crowd of 5000+ were hungry, it was almost dinner time and you were in a place without food or shops, what would you do?
- If the only food you had was one packed lunch, what would you do with it?

Act out what Jesus did with the food. Explain that he made one packed lunch feed thousands of people. You don't need to do a miracle for the children to feel the shock – just keep bringing more rolls out of your bag which can be shared with them. Talk about how good it feels to be full after being hungry. Ask the children to make a face to show you how they would have felt if they saw this miracle? What do they think the disciples thought about Jesus after their picnic lunch? Help them see that Jesus did what only God can do – he made something from nothing. The miracle shows us in big flashing lights – Jesus is God! As you finish, keep in mind the **Big Idea** and the questions you thought through in **Take 10 minutes to focus**. Explain that Jesus gave the people what they needed, a full tummy. What we need the most is Jesus.



## Brain Break

### I Need...

#### You will need:

Pictures or props of 'need' placed around the room - see examples below.

Call out a sentence and get the children to run to the picture/prop that best meets their 'need' in that situation. Let them take turns with coming up with new situations/needs for similar props.

#### Examples:

- You're going to a birthday party, you need to take a... *gift*

- You really want to play a game of football in the park but can't do it without a...*football*
- You have just done a massive, wet sneeze on the bus and desperately need a...*tissue*
- Your tummy is gurgling all through music class, you really need...*lunch*
- You are standing at the bus-stop when it starts to rain, you need an...*umbrella*
- You find yourself stranded on a desert island and the first thing you need to find is...*shelter*

➡ **Link:** We need all kinds of things at different times. But Jesus shows us what we need most all the time: Him!



## Heart & Hands

Use the illustrations to help the children remember the story. Worksheet A is the suggested sheet for this age group. The questions below can mostly be found on the worksheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).

### Did you spot it?

- Who needed help in today's story?
- Who helped them?
- What meal did Jesus give the crowd? How much did they eat?

### Work it out

- What miracle did Jesus do?
- How could Jesus do a miracle?
- Jesus is God. What can we learn about God from this story?

### Live it out

- What do you think you need? Where would you put Jesus? How is he better than each of those things?
- What do we need more than anything else? Why?
- Remember how the people felt when they had eaten enough? How does it feel when you have everything you need?
- Think of a friend who doesn't know how great Jesus is. What could you tell them about Jesus?

### Prayer

Ask the children to suggest why they need Jesus. I need Jesus because \_\_\_\_\_. Turn these into prayers of thanks.

### Craft Time

#### Make a 'Jesus is all we need' wheel.

Craft instructions can be found in the Explorers **Craft Time** section. Use craft sheet A or B for this age group. If you use B, get the children to draw pictures on the blank circle of things we need to live e.g. shelter, air, water, food, sleep and people to love and care for us.



# Adventurers 8-11s



**Take 10 minutes to focus!** Jesus met many needs in the passage. What does this show us about God's character? What do your children think God is like? How can you help them see more of God's character as you teach them about Jesus?




## Get Going

### What Do We Need?

#### You will need:

Pictures of a wide selection of things the children might say they need throughout the week e.g. a snack, water, a fizzy drink, sweets, new trainers, money for a school trip, a better phone, to watch television, a cinema trip, a new game app, help with their homework, to go to a friends house, a biscuit, a hug, etc.

Show the children the pictures and get them to place them in order of need. Talk about why they would need certain things more than others. Do they think they really 'need' all of those things?

 **Link:** In today's story we see that we need Jesus more than anything else.



## Teaching Time

#### You will need:

The Bible story illustrations (see Appendix) stuck onto large sheets of paper - leave space to write around each picture, pens and Bibles or print outs of the passage and Exodus 16:1-4, 35.

Explain to the children that they are going to produce a news report on the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. The big question they must answer is 'who is Jesus?'

Read through the story then hand out the sheets of paper. Ask the children to go through the text and write information about the different scenes around the pictures.

Ask them questions to help them draw out the information:

- Where were they? (*A remote place/middle of nowhere*)
- What did the people need? (*Some needed healing, they all needed feeding*)
- What did Jesus do? (*Go through the process of giving thanks, breaking and handing out the bread. He made something from nothing. Talk about how it was a generous provision - all ate*

*and were satisfied and there were leftovers.*)

Get the children to look at Exodus 16:1-4, 35.

Ask them questions to help them draw out the information:

- Where were they? (*In the desert/middle of nowhere*)
- What did the people need? (*Food*)
- What did God do? (*He made something from nothing - he sent them food from heaven everyday for 40 years*)

Help the children to make the link that Jesus did what only God can do. This miracle shows us that Jesus is God. Get the older children in your group to look at Luke 9:18-20. How did Peter answer the question 'who is Jesus?' This miracle helped him get to his answer. Make a point or two about how Jesus gave the people what they needed. Keep in mind the **Big Idea** and the questions you thought through in **Take 10 minutes to focus** as you explain that Jesus can give us everything we need because he is God.

Finish by letting the children give their news report. Split into smaller groups and give them a few minutes to come up with a headline and short statement to answer the question, 'who is Jesus?'



## Brain Break


### Picnic Packing

#### You will need:

A lightweight ball

Sit in a circle or at a table. The first child must say, 'I need a (blanket/cup/plate/any picnic item) for a picnic.' The next child repeats the sentence but includes the previous item before adding in theirs. Children continue

the pattern by repeating the items before adding in theirs. If you have a large space then stand in a circle and roll/throw a lightweight ball to someone in the circle to indicate who gets to go next.

 **Link:** The people in today's story needed food for their picnic and Jesus provided it. We need Jesus more than anything else.



## Heart & Hands

Use the illustrations to help the children remember the story. Worksheet B is the suggested sheet for this age group. The questions below can mostly be found on the worksheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).

#### Did you spot it?

- Who needed help in today's passage?
- How much did people eat? How much was left over?
- How do you think it felt to have enough?

#### Work it out

- What amazed the disciples in this story?
- What words could we use to describe Jesus in this story? What does this show us about what God is like?
- Thinking only about this story, how would you answer a friend who asked, 'what's so special about Jesus?'

#### Live it out

- What are some of the things in life you wish for most? (If you have pictures of needs from Get

Going, put them in front of the children to prompt their answers.)

- Jesus is what we need most of all. How does that make a difference to what you think about Jesus?
- Does Jesus always give us what we feel we need? Why?
- Jesus promises to always be with us, always love us and help us. How does having Jesus change how you feel when you don't have what you think you need?

#### Pray – Talk these questions through with your group, and then pray.

- Remember what this story shows us that God is like. What does that make you want to say to him?
- What would you like to ask him for?
- Can you pray for someone who really needs something?

#### Craft Time

##### Make a 'Jesus is what we need most' wheel.

Craft instructions can be found in the Explorers **Craft Time** section. Use craft sheet B for this age group.

Get the children to draw pictures on the blank circle of things we need to live e.g. shelter, air, water, food, sleep and people to love and care for us.



## Xtra Stretch

- Without telling anyone, is there something that you really, really want? Perhaps something that you think will make your life so much better, or easier, if you had it? Think about that thing.
- Do you think it's possible that having Jesus could be even better than that 'thing' you just thought of?
- How is he better?

- Let the children think through difficult situations: For example, if a child wishes they had more friends at school, how can Jesus satisfy them? What can the child tell themselves is true when they feel alone in the playground? *He is with them. He loves them more than any friend ever will. He is the friend who does not break promises or let them down.*



# Mixed Ages

## 3–11s

This component is suitable for a mixed group of children aged 3–11 years old. Use this if you are unable to break your group into smaller classes because of the number of children or leaders you have.



**Take 10 minutes to focus!** What do your children think they need? How can you help them see that Jesus is what they need most of all and he can satisfy all their needs?

## Go! Get Going


### Picnic Memories

#### You will need:

Matching pairs of picnic items drawn onto paper plates e.g. baskets, blankets, cups, plates. Don't include any food items. Make enough pairs for a 4x4 grid of plates. If you have a large group then have a grid of pictures for younger children and a grid of words for the older children to make the game more challenging.

Place the plates, picture down, in a grid so that the pairs are all mixed up. Children take turns to turn over 2 plates at a time to try to get a pair of items. If they get a pair they can keep the plates and get another turn.

After the game, ask the children if they were able to spot what was missing from the picnic items – food!

 **Link:** In today's story, a lot of food was needed for a very big picnic. We will find out where all the food came from.



## Teaching Time

#### You will need:

Bibles (or the passage printed out), sheets of paper, pens, Bible story illustrations (see [Appendix](#)), lots of teddies/toy figures to make a crowd, props for acting out the story – bread rolls (extra if you want to share them with the children), cardboard cut out fish, picnic blankets.

Get the older children to look at the text and write down the different people and what they needed help with (sick people in the crowd needed healing, disciples needed to feed people, hungry crowds needed food) and who was able to help them (Jesus gave all of them what they needed). While they do that, use the Bible story illustrations to tell the story in a simple way to the younger children.

Have the children act out the story using the props.

Get older children to read out the passage and to act as Jesus and the disciples. Let the younger children (and teddies/toy figures) be the crowd. Ask the older children to clap/whistle/wave hands when you get to a 'need' in the story. Ask them to explain who was in need, what the need was and who helped with the need. After you have gone through the story, ask the children who was able to help with all the needs in the story – Jesus. Can they remember the different things Jesus did to help people? Explain that Jesus was able to make something from nothing. He did what only God can do because he is God. Talk about how Jesus was able to give the people what they needed – a full tummy. Ask the children what they think we need the most in life. Jesus can give us what we need most – he can forgive us and make us part of God's family. Jesus is what we need most and he can give us what we need.



As you finish, keep in mind the **Big Idea** and the questions you thought through in **Take 10 minutes to focus**. Talk about how we have everything we need if we have Jesus. He is God and we can trust him with

everything that we need in life because he loves us, cares for us and is always with us.

Pray and thank Jesus for being all that we need.



## Brain Break


### Feed the Crowd

#### You will need:

A large box with a 'hungry crowd' sign on it (or draw a face with a large open mouth), ball pit balls/scrunched up paper/bean bags

The aim is to feed the 'hungry crowd' box by throwing the balls/scrunched paper/bean bags into it. Have enough stuff to fill the box to overflowing so it is 'well fed'. Place the box a fair throwing distance

away from the items. Younger children can stand closer to the box. Let the children take turns to throw an item in. Keep the pace fast and fun. Comment on how there was more 'food' than was needed to 'feed the crowd' just like when Jesus fed the crowd with bread and fish.

 **Link:** Jesus fed the crowd - he gave them what they needed. Jesus is what we need most.



## Heart & Hands

If you have more than one leader then you could split up into smaller groups of similar aged children (if possible). If not then get the younger ones busy with a craft so you can have some discussion time with the older children.

Use the illustrations to help the children remember the story.

Depending on your children, use the craft/worksheet and questions that will suit them best from the Explorers/Discoverers/Adventurers sections.



# Appendix

The following pages can be copied, printed and used to accompany this lesson.



p19



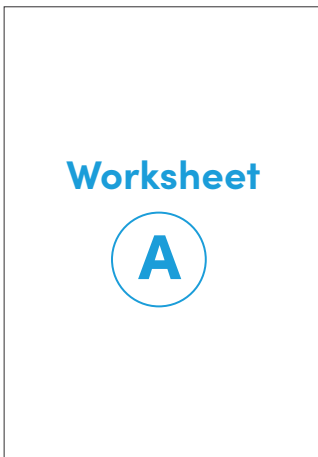
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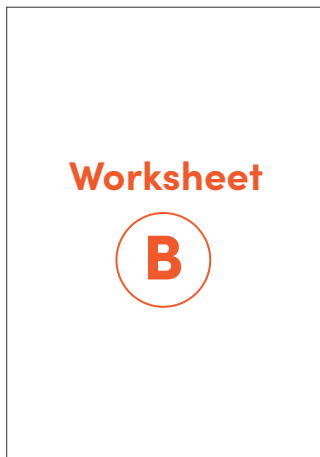
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p22



p23



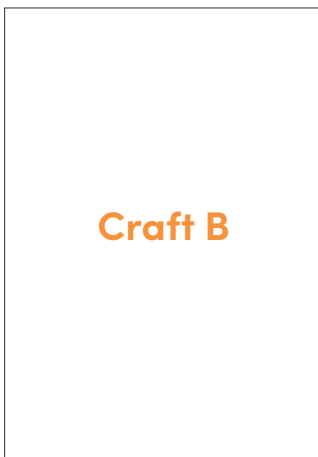
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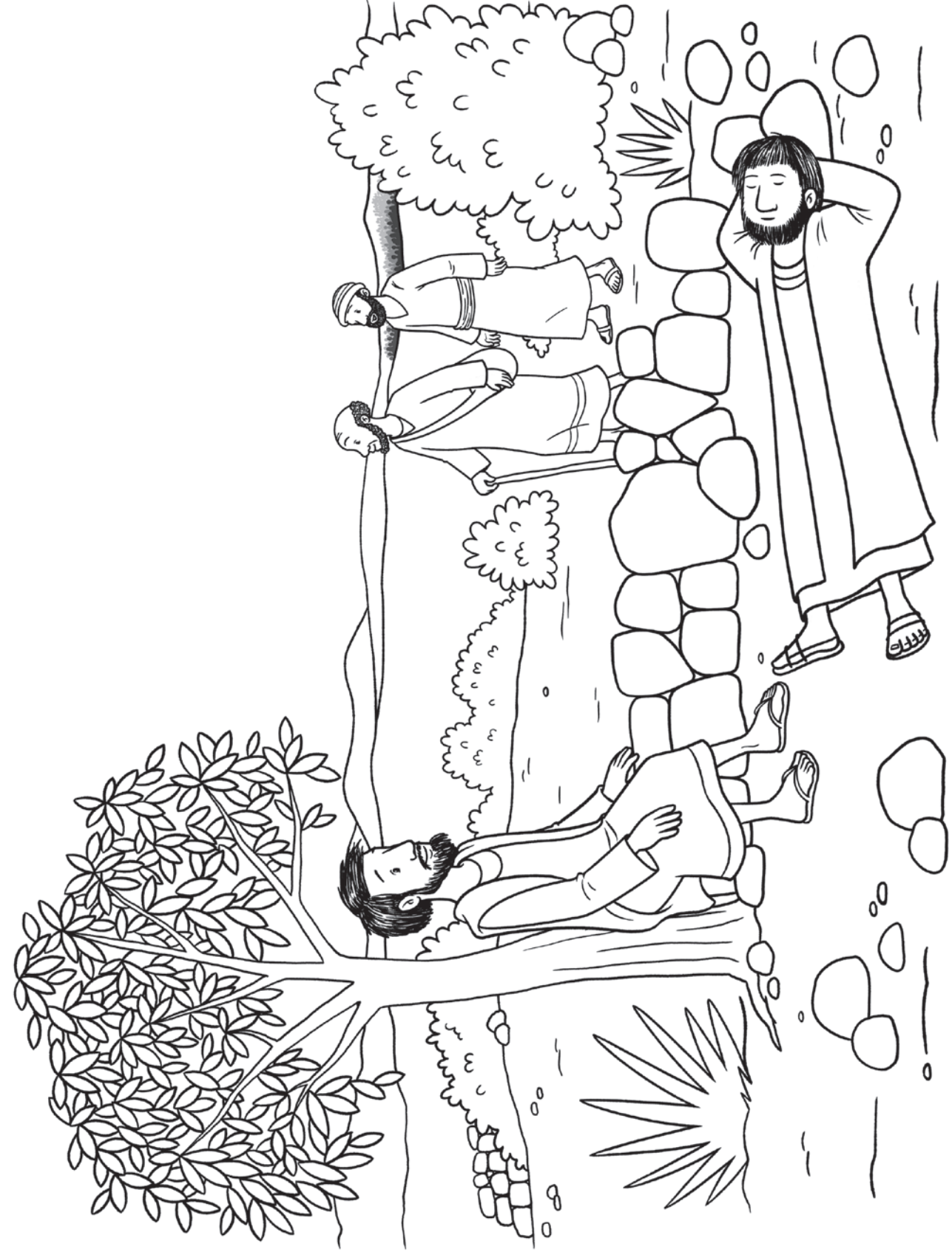
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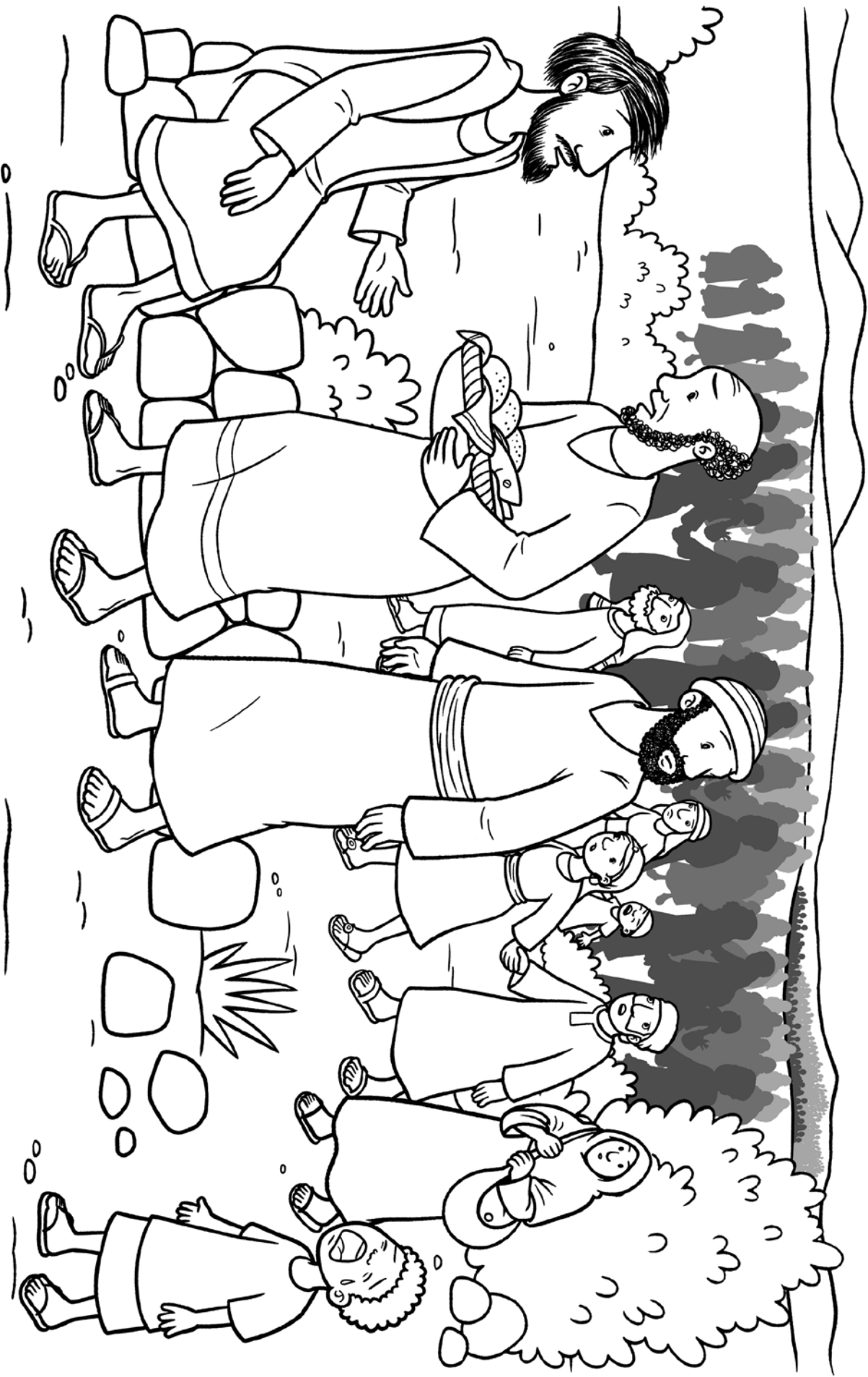


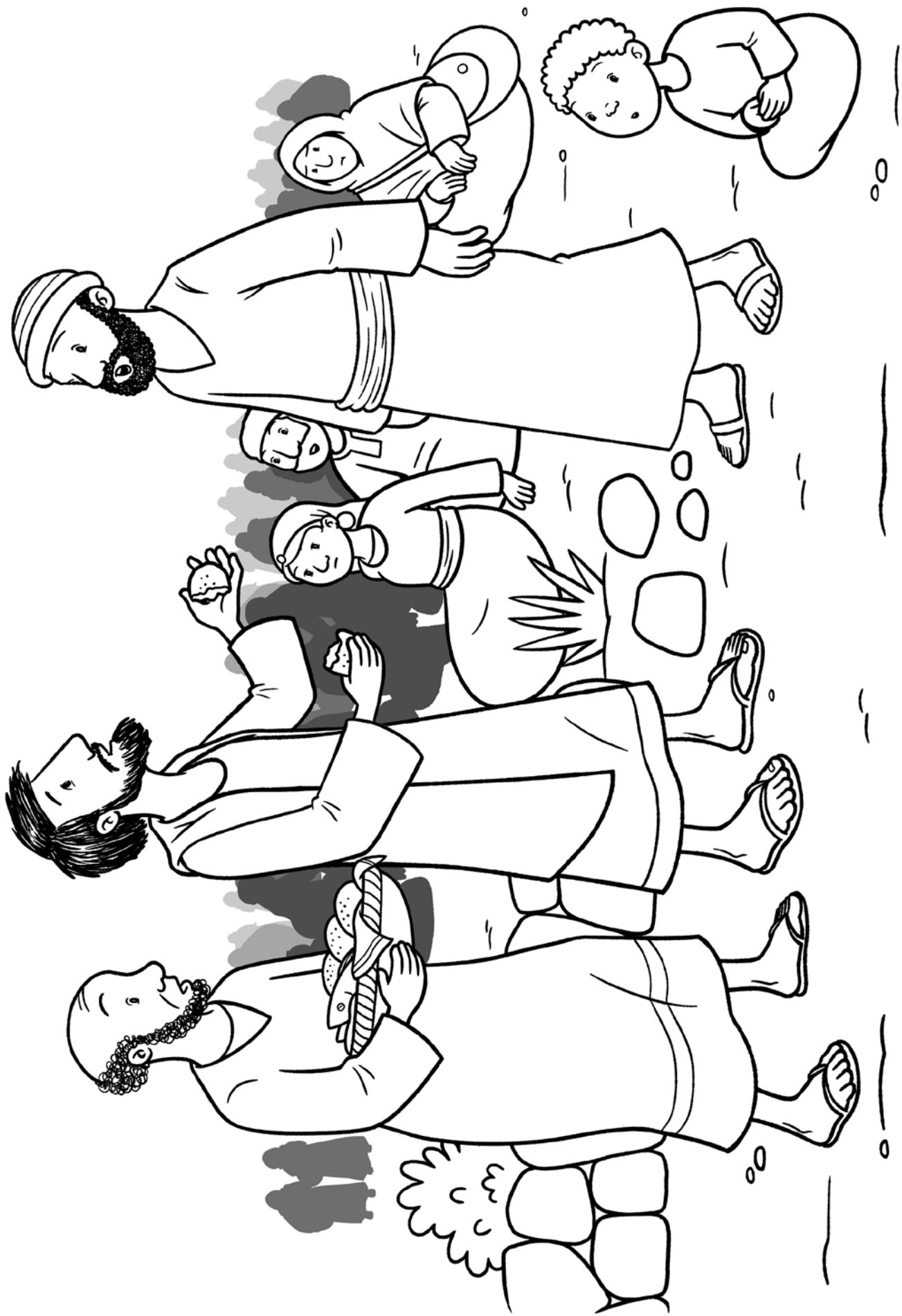
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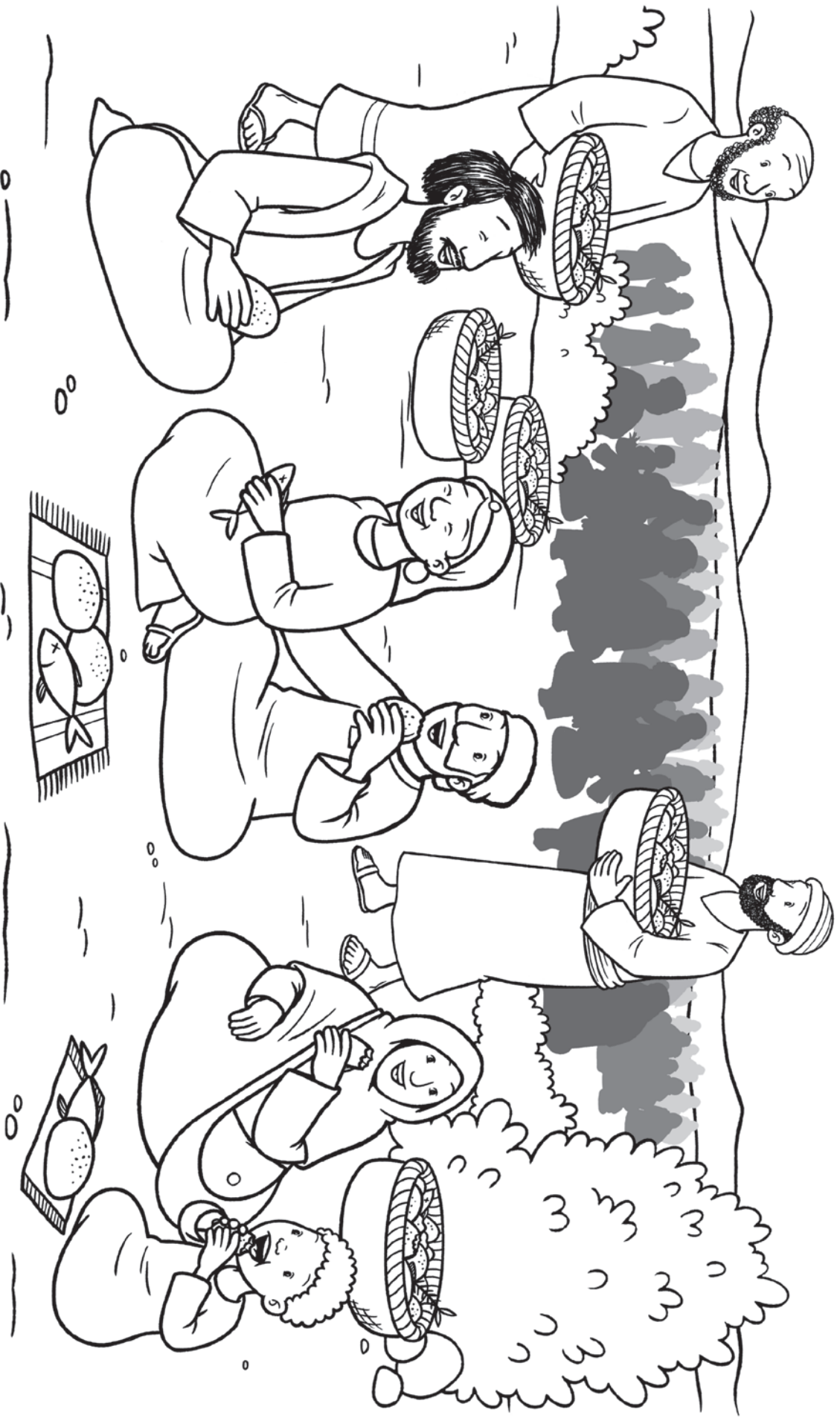
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MEALS WITH JESUS

# Lesson 3: Big Picnic

LUKE 9:10-17

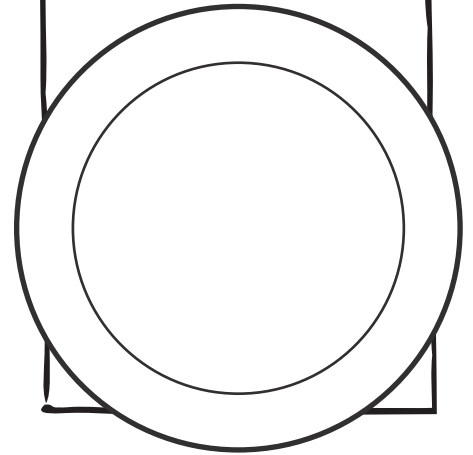


## Did you spot it?

Draw arrows from the question to the picture...



What meal did Jesus give to the crowd? Draw the food on the plate.



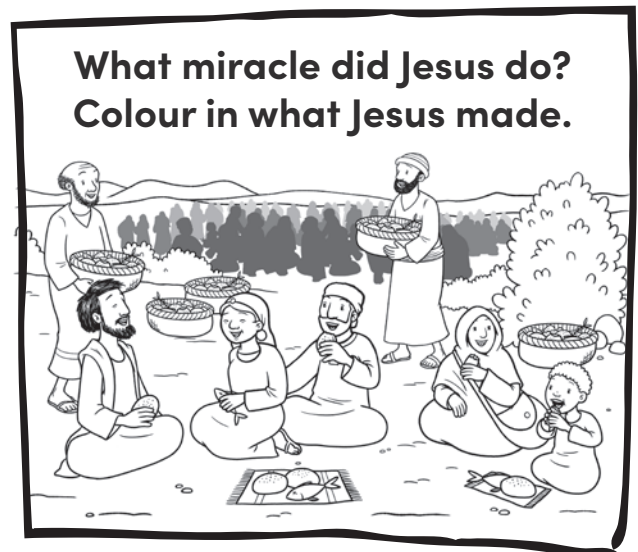
## Work it out

Draw pictures in the boxes to complete the sentence...

Jesus did a miracle. He made lots of  and .

Write the first letter of each word to find the answer...

Jesus is



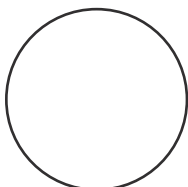
## Live it out


Draw 3 things you need. Put them in order of what you need most on the scale below

Need the most



Need the least



Draw a  on the scale to show where you would put Jesus. Draw a face in the circle to show how you feel when you have everything you need



# B

MEALS WITH JESUS

## Lesson 3: Big Picnic

LUKE 9:10-17



### Did you spot it?

Find the matching part for each incomplete sentence...

The disciples

The crowds

Everyone

Twelve baskets

were left over

was satisfied

needed help to feed the crowds

needed food

How do you think it felt to have enough food?



### Work it out

What words could you use to describe Jesus in this story?



How would you answer a friend who asked...

What's so special about Jesus?



Write your answer here...



### Live it out

I think I need...

Write your answers on the scale.

Need the most



Need the least

JESUS IS WHAT WE NEED MOST

How does that make a difference to what you think about Jesus?



How does that change how you feel when you don't have what you think you need?





Use these questions to get a conversation started about today's lesson with your child. Pick a time that sets you up for success - maybe in the car on the way home or before bedtime. Make yourself part of the conversation and share your own ideas - this is not a test!

## MEALS WITH JESUS

### Lesson 3: Big Picnic

LUKE 9:10-17



#### Big Idea:

Jesus is God who can satisfy all of our needs.



#### Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who trust Jesus for all their needs, recognising that he is what they need most.



3-5s

- What did the hungry people need? *Food.*
- Who do we need? *Jesus!*



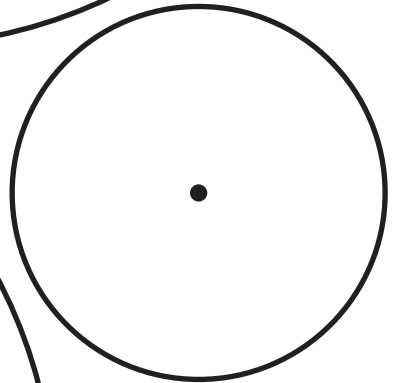
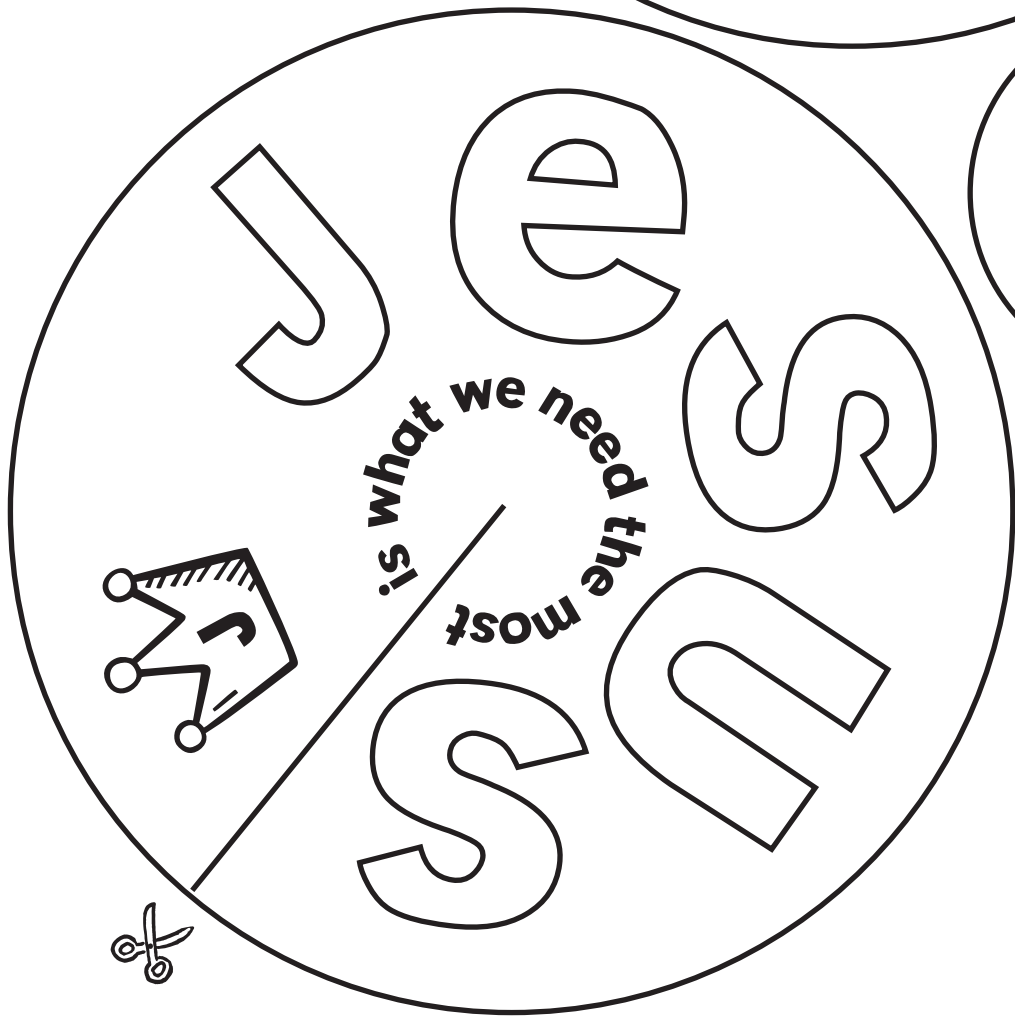
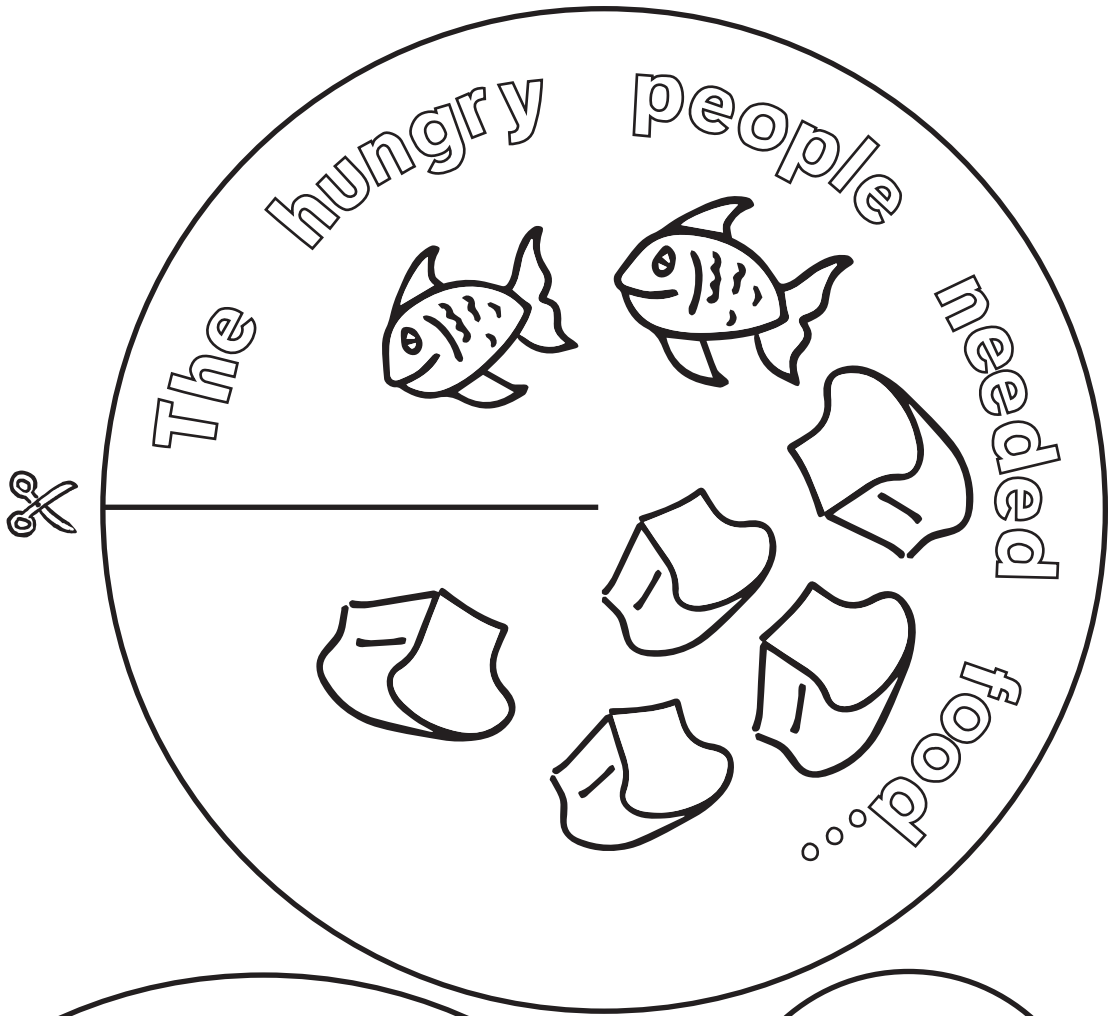
5-7s

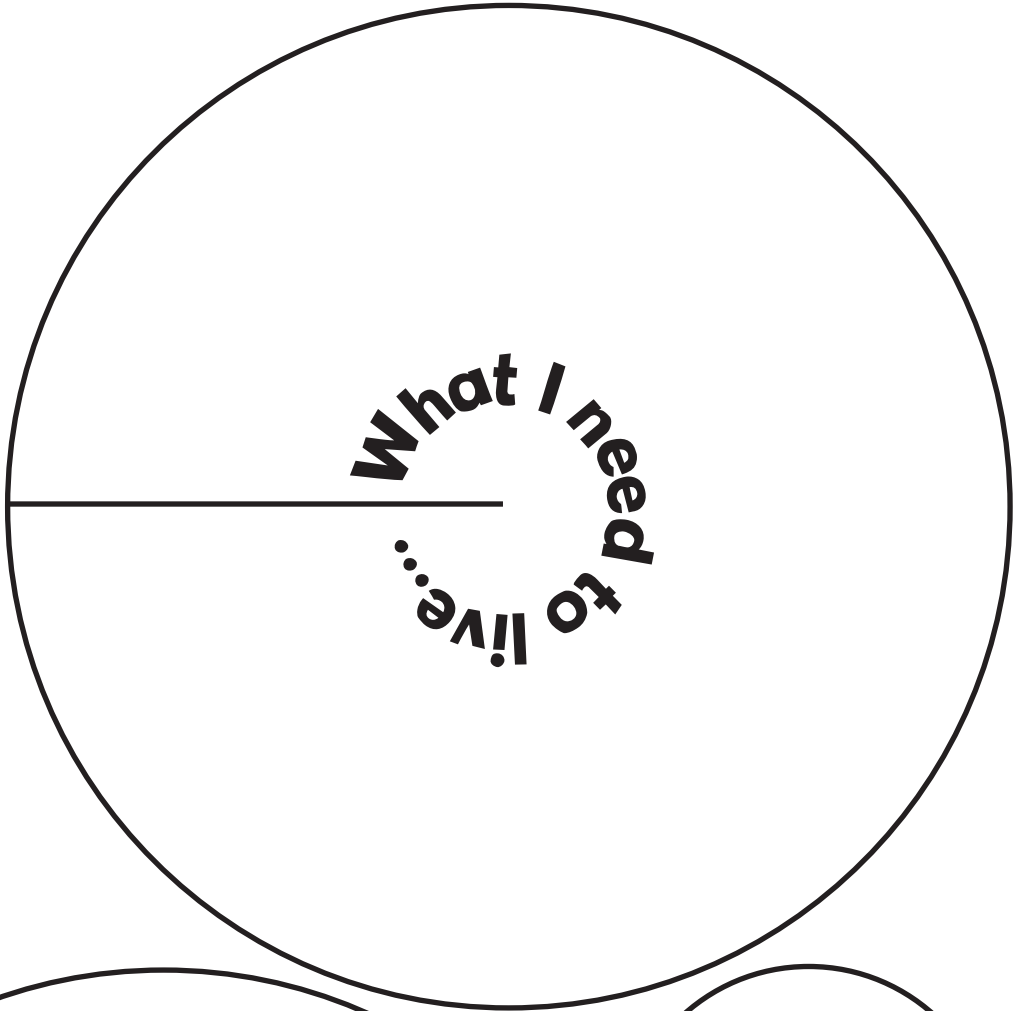
- What miracle did Jesus do in the story?
- How could Jesus do a miracle?
- Why is Jesus what we need most?



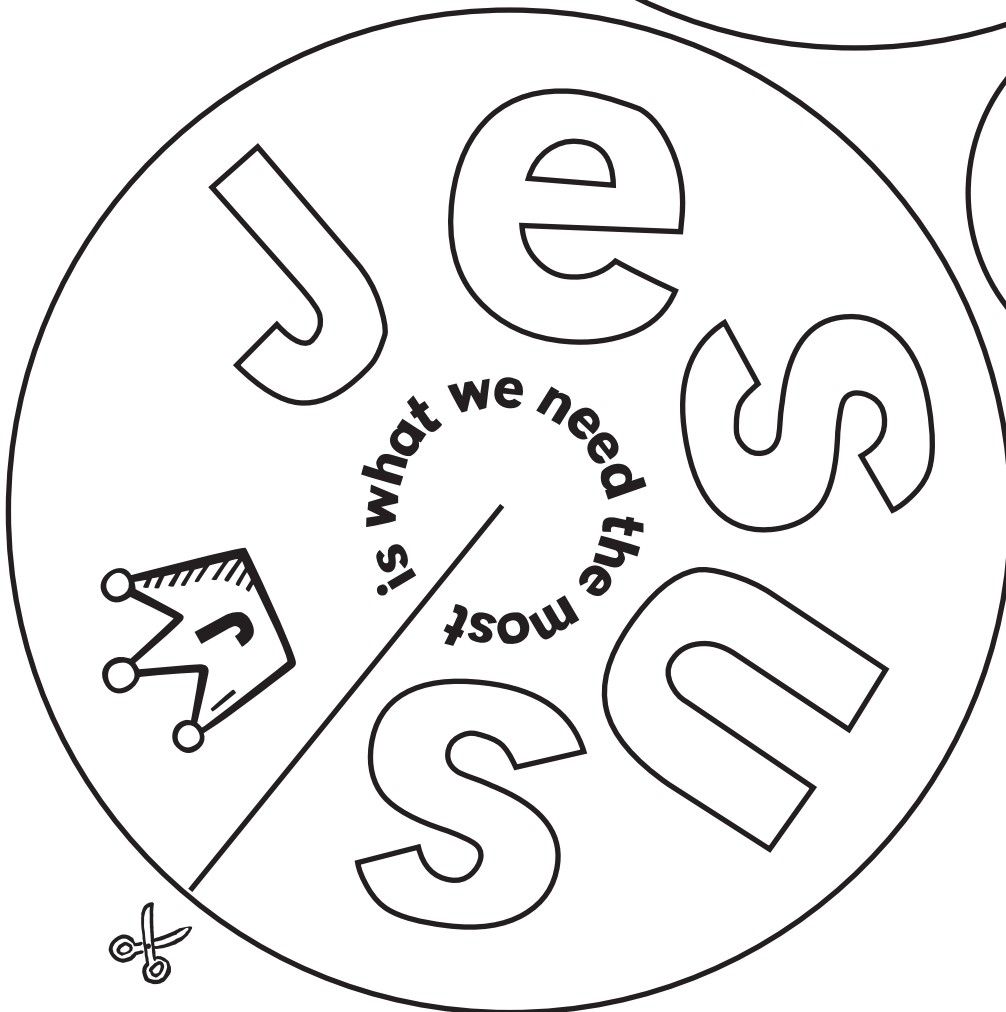
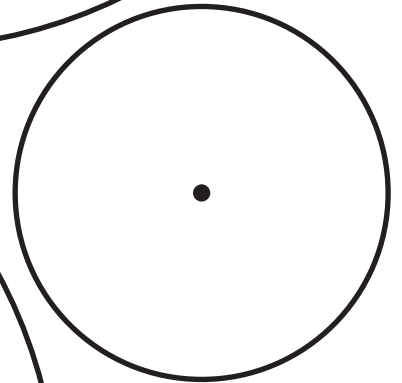
8-11s

- In today's story, who needed help and who helped them?
- What does this story show us about Jesus?
- How can Jesus give us what we need most?





What I need to live...



Jesus is what we need the most

JESUS



# Meals with Jesus

Cover artwork  
inspired by

The Good Book Company logo features the text "the goodbook" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with "good" in red and "the" and "book" in black. A red swoosh arches over the word "good". Below "the goodbook" is the word "COMPANY" in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font.

the goodbook  
COMPANY

The Faith in Kids logo consists of the words "faith in kids" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word "in" is enclosed within a red circle.

faith in kids

[www.faithinkids.org](http://www.faithinkids.org)