

Leader Guide

Equip

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things" (Mark 6:34).

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).

In each of these accounts, the compassion Jesus feels is followed by an action. In the original language, the Greek word used for compassion is *splagchnizomai*. It comes from the Greek word for the vital inner organs of a person—the stomach, heart, lungs, spleen, liver, and kidneys. Jesus felt the depth of this emotion. He was moved so deeply that His natural response was action.

The Lord Jesus had seen the needs of the people and felt compassion toward them. He put the plans He may have had for the evening aside to generously care for the needs of others. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever—He has compassion for us and provides for us abundantly.

Support

As you prepare for the lesson, read through Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; and John 6:1–15. Spend time praying, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the narrative your children will hear. Think of times God provided for you in your own life. Pray that God will use you to bring the kids into times of experiencing Him, both at church and at home with their families. Pray that your kids and parents will be transformed by their encounters with God, that they will know Him better, and that they will respond to Him with faith and obedience.

Preschool Lesson: May 2

Main Point: God is Provider

Intro: 15 Minutes

Welcome kids as they arrive. They are allowed to play with toys, color, or play outside if weather permits.

Transition Time: 10 Minutes

Have kids clean up all the toys and turn the toy shelves around so toys are no longer accessible. Then have the kids wash their hands and come sit at the table to eat a snack and have some water. Also encourage them to use the restroom at this time.

Activity #1: 10 Minutes

Supplies: Beach Ball and List of Questions

Purpose: This fun game helps the children take turns, follow directions and get to know each other better.

Instructions: Have the children sit in a circle. Explain that the group is going to throw and roll the ball back and forth from friend to friend. Before kids roll or throw the ball to someone, they have to call out that child's name. Whoever is holding the ball at that point will answer a question. Read the question to the child, have him answer it, and then they can roll the ball to someone else. Continue playing until everyone has answered at least one question.

Questions What did you eat for breakfast? Who is your favorite person in The Big God Story? How many brothers and sisters do you have? What kind of pets do you have? What is your favorite cereal? What do you want to be when you grow up? Have you ever been to the beach? Have you ever played in the snow?

Lesson Intro & Worship: 10 minutes

Have kids come sit down on the carpet. Encourage them to each find their own "square" to sit/stand in.

Hello, friends! I love when we get to come together and explore The Big God Story! Let's pray to God and ask Him to help us hear what He has to teach us today. **Open in prayer.**

Bible Story: 15 Minutes

Read Bible Story to the Children. Bible is located in classroom and tabbed.

Play The Rock Kids Pre-K Video

Let's end in prayer (insert the child's name as you pray this): May you praise God each day for the things He provides for you, and may you remember to share what you have with others. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Activity #2: 10 Minutes | Pass the Bread

Supplies: Ball, Upbeat Music

Purpose: When God provided food from five loaves and two fish, the disciples passed it out to the crowd. In this game, children will see how quickly they can pass a loaf of "bread."

Instructions: Invite children to sit down in a circle. When Jesus saw that the people were hungry and needed food, He gave food to the disciples to pass out to the crowd. We're going to pretend this ball is a loaf of bread. I will turn on the music, and you're going to pass the "bread" around the circle. The person holding the bread when the music stops will need to stand up and say, "God is Provider!"

Hand the ball to a child and start the music. Stop the music at intervals, inviting the children left holding the ball each time to stand and say, "God is Provider!" Encourage children to try to pass the ball as fast as they can, and keep track of how many times they get it around the circle before you stop the music.

Ending:

Let kids play until parents arrive. They are allowed to play with toys, color, or play outside if weather permits.

As parents pick their children up, tell them the main points we talked about today and the activities we did. Please make sure kids take home all the things that they came with (ex. Jackets or toys) and any crafts they made in class.

After children are gone, please wipe down the chairs and tables and switch out the toys with the clean ones in the cabinet.