

Feeding 50000

WORKSHOP:

Art



www.heifer.org

PASS ON
THE GIFT
HEIFER[®]
INTERNATIONAL

OUTLINE – Art Workshop

Scripture: John 6:1-14

Connection of the scripture to Heifer:

The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is a daily reality for those who support Heifer International. Heifer works with communities by providing the means for people to support themselves. A family is expected to pass on their gift by sharing their one or more of their animal's offspring—as well as knowledge, resources and skills to a neighbor in hopes of improving the health of the whole community. One gift passes on to another and another until the community is self reliant; that community passes on the gift to other communities, reaching a global impact of ending hunger and poverty. It's the feeding of the 5,000 gone global.

Objectives:


- Jesus performed a miracle when he fed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.
- Heifer helps to feed thousands throughout the world by supplying the means to produce their own food.
- The Heifer philosophy is to Pass on the Gift, when a family passes on one or more of its animal's offspring to another family.

Overview:

- Conduct a Bible study on Jesus' feeding of the 5,000.
- Look at the early Christian art found in the catacombs that uses the fish symbol.
- Learn why the fish is the symbol of the church.
- Learn how Heifer feeds thousands with a focus on fish.
- Create a fish banner or fish-mobile using the Japanese printing process of *gyotaku*.
- Ponder how to raise money to purchase fish for Heifer.

Supplies:

- Class set of Bibles
- Newspaper to cover the table surface and blot brushes
- Smocks
- Paint brushes
- Tempera paints in many colors
- Bowls of water to rinse out brushes
- Several plastic fish replicas (www.eNasco.com has a wide variety—type *gyotaku*)
- There is debate as to whether it is legitimate to use real fish for an art project when others don't have enough to eat. To be authentic *gyotaku*, real fish would be used. This would also reinforce the goal of Heifer to acknowledge the indigenous culture.
- Disposable plastic gloves if using real fish.

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- Option 1: fabric banner
 - A piece of muslin long enough to hang across a room
 - Option 2: paper fish-mobile
 - For each participant, have two pieces of banner paper at least 2” wider than the fish.
 - Scissors
 - Stapler
 - String
 - Newspaper to stuff into paper fish

Advance Research:

To learn how fish appear in the catacombs and provide visuals for the class, print out the photos from the website <http://www.jesuswalk.com/christian-symbols/fish.htm> or show them via a computer hook-up to the internet that is plugged into a TV or projector.

Information about aquaculture can be found on the Heifer website at “Reap the Benefits of Urban Agriculture” <http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.736011/>

Advance Preparation:

Prepare the work area so that the participants can paint their fish, turn them onto the fabric or paper and then clean their brushes.

Consider inviting a fisher to demonstrate how to catch and clean fish.

Think about how the banner or fish mobile will be displayed. Do they stay in the classroom? Will they be used as an exhibit for a fundraiser for Heifer? Will they become a fish booth for a Living Gift Market?

LESSON – Art Workshop

Introduction:

What if you read a headline that said, “Man feeds 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish?” What would you say? Would you believe it? Perhaps it’s the kind of headline that people see in the grocery store tabloids. It would seem impossible and unexplainable.

Bible Study:

For Jesus, his disciples and those 5,000 who were fed, there was only one explanation. It was a miracle. Read what the Bible says about this story.

- (Distribute the Bibles.)
- The Bible is split into two parts. The first part is the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures; this tells the story of the Hebrew people and testifies to their relationship with God. The second part is the New Testament; this tells the story of Jesus Christ and the church. Open to the New Testament.
- The first four books of the Bible are called the Gospels and tell the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This story is told in all four gospels.
- Open to the fourth book, the Gospel of John.
- Notice the big numbers; those are the chapters. Open to Chapter 6.
- Notice the small numbers; those are verses. Look for verse 1.
- Read John 6:1-14.

Enact the script found on pages 6-7.

- Assign reading roles for the narrator, persons 1-4, Jesus, Philip, Andrew and the crowd.
- Keep this as simple as a reading or elaborate with costumes and props.

Discussion:

People call this a miracle. What do you think is a miracle? Can this be explained? A miracle is something that can’t be explained. Somehow, God was present, making it happen. That’s what Jesus was doing with this miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. He was showing God’s presence by feeding their physical hunger. The rest of his ministry would show people how he would feed their spiritual hunger.

Jesus’ ministry gave us a vision of what the Kingdom of God is like. One vision was that everyone would be fed. In order to make that come true, we all are called to participate, to share our abundance, to pass on our gifts and talents to others in need.

For older children, they can look up the other accounts of this miracle and compare them. Look at Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17.

The Fish Symbol and the Church:

Show pictures of the catacombs art to the class and share information about early Christian art and symbolism. Early Christians decorated their old burial tombs under the city of Rome with imagery that reminded them of God’s saving grace. The fish is a common symbol of the church. It reminds us that Jesus fed 5,000 people with just two fish and five loaves of bread. The first four people that Jesus called to be disciples were fishermen. Jesus met Peter on the beach after the resurrection while cooking fish.

The ICHTHUS is a symbol in the shape of a *fish*.

In Greek, when you put together the first letters of the following words, they spell *fish*. JESUS CHRIST GOD SON SAVIOR



Heifer Connection:

There is an old saying that if you give a hungry person a fish, that person will be hungry again tomorrow. If you teach that person to fish, that person will be fed for life.

While serving milk to refugees in the Spanish Civil War, the founder of Heifer, Dan West, realized that it wasn't enough to simply provide them with a cup of milk each day. They needed the means to supply their own milk. When he returned to his farm in Indiana, he decided to send heifers, young cows, back to Spain. The idea and program blossomed into Heifer International.

Since 1944, Heifer has helped 12.5 million families in more than 125 countries become self-reliant. Heifer provides someone with the "living loan" of an animal. That animal provides both food and income. In turn, the family passes on the offspring to another family in need. Over time, Passing on the Gift to a neighbor can lift a whole community out of poverty.

From the *Animal Crackers* reference:

Share the story about Carmen and how she encouraged the other women in her community to start a tilapia farm in the Philippines as well as the information about fish found on pages 14-15.

Share more information about urban agriculture from the Heifer website entitled "Reap the Benefits of Urban Agriculture."

A donation of fish to Heifer is \$50. How could we raise \$50 to get someone started on a fish farm? Make this the source of discussion while the class is making their fish prints.

Gyotaku Project:

Original fish print (Gyotaku) by artist, Mary Lou Morrison



Create a fish banner/mobile to help remember how Heifer calls us to live out our faith by helping others to feed themselves. When a Japanese fisherman would catch a great fish, he would make a print of it to prove how big it was or what kind it was. He would cover the fish with ink and then press rice paper over it to make the print. Over time, this grew into a beautiful art form. Make a banner/fish mobile in that same method.

Option 1: Fabric banner

Let the participants paint their fish with a thin layer of paint, roll them onto the fabric and then wash up.

Option 2: Fish mobile

Let the participants paint their fish with a thin layer of paint and roll them onto a piece of banner paper. Once the paper is dry, put the print together with another piece of banner paper and cut around the edge of the print. Staple the two sides and the top, leaving an opening in which to stuff newspaper. Staple the bottom. Staple a string from the top.

Display in the room or in an area where you are exhibiting a fundraiser for Heifer.

Fundraising Options:

- A)** Are you going to raise \$50 for one fish farm? The children could be in charge of a table during coffee hour after worship and sell paper fish for \$1 each to be taped up on the display. Everyone might have fun making a gyotaku fish print.
- B)** Hold a fish fry and donate the proceeds to a Heifer fish farm.
- C)** Is this workshop a part of a *Fill the Ark* program or *Living Gift Market* where fish are part of the whole package? Create a booth for the sale of fish.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, we ask that you open our hearts so that we might find a way to pass our gifts and talents onto others in need. We become part of the miracle when we choose to act on our faith. Amen.

Script for the Bible Study:

Every time the crowd says "I'm getting hungry", the crowd should rub their tummies.

NARRATOR: After this, Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was caring for the sick.

PERSON #1: Did you hear that Jesus healed that lame man who has been sitting by the Sheep Gate for 38 years! Jesus said, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." And the man did!

CROWD: I'm getting hungry.

NARRATOR: Jesus went up the mountain and sat down with his disciples.

CROWD: I'm getting hungry.

NARRATOR: Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip,

JESUS: Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?

NARRATOR: He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

CROWD: I'm getting hungry.

PHILIP: Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.


NARRATOR: One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,

ANDREW: There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?

CROWD: I'm getting hungry.

JESUS: Make the people sit down.

CROWD: I'm getting hungry.



NARRATOR: Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

CROWD: Wow! I'm full. I can't eat another thing.

NARRATOR: When they were satisfied, he told his disciples

JESUS: Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.

NARRATOR: So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

PERSON #2: How did he do that? There must be 5,000 of us here. We all ate until we were full.

PERSON #3: Who is this guy?

PERSON #4: This is indeed the Messiah who is to come into the world.