



Date: _____
Series: Godly Actions Count (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 10

Share the Bread of Life

Primary Scripture: John 6:22-70

Key Verse: John 6:35, “Jesus told them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never become hungry, and whoever believes in me will never become thirsty.’”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

By this time, many of the kids may already experience God's love, and they may have a living relationship with Jesus. Sometimes people think that the goal of the Christian life is only to get to the point of faith in Christ. Then they may become confused and begin to think that a relationship with God is a means to have their needs met. This is not the case. The goal of the Christian walk is not only to experience Jesus as the spiritual bread who fills up our soul, but also to share Jesus with others.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus, the bread of life, gave himself on the cross so that we might have forgiveness and life in him.

Jesus in us: Because of Jesus' presence, we no longer live in our selfishness. Instead, we can live with the same power and authority that Jesus did to serve others.

Jesus through us: We need to hand the bread of life to others as we share the good news of Jesus with those who need to hear it.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies needed: Twinkie (or a bite-sized brownie or other sweet "bread" snack that is individually wrapped) in a lunch box

Open the lunch box and take out the Twinkie. Say with delight:

Ah, nothing like a Twinkie for a mid-morning snack!

Begin to unwrap it.

Does seeing this make you hungry? Let me take a bite of it and see what it tastes like! Mmmmm. Oh, that is sooo good! *(The kids should be screaming for their own Twinkies at this point.)*

The way you are saying *(use the word "thinking" instead of "saying" if they aren't playing along and begging for their own)* **that you are hungry and need something to eat right now reminds me of an event in the Bible.**

Once Jesus was preaching to thousands of hungry people. They had been listening to him all day long and they had nothing to eat. They didn't just need a snack, they needed a meal. And that's when Jesus did a very remarkable thing! He took some bread, performed a miracle, and fed all of them. But then he said, "There is something more important than just bread to fill your stomachs. You also need spiritual food." Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. If you come and

trust in me, your soul will be satisfied. You will never be hungry again.”

So today we don’t want to just eat bread or Twinkies, in this case, to fill our bodies. We want to fill our souls with the true bread of life. We can do that now as we worship. Let’s give Jesus our songs and prayers. Let’s think about him and let him, who is the bread of life, come to us.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies needed: Twinkies (1/2 per child—if using a smaller snack, give one per child), basket for the Twinkies (or snack) if there are too many to hold in your hands

Hold all of the Twinkies (or snacks) in your hands or in a basket.

Who wants a Twinkie? *(The kids will respond with enthusiasm!)* **Nope. Sorry. They are all mine. I’m keeping all of them to myself.**

Of course, there will be much protesting.

Did you know Christians are sometimes stingy with the good news of Jesus? God gave us so much when he gave us Jesus as our Savior. And as Christians, we come to know and trust him. However, sometimes we start thinking that Christianity is all about us and about God meeting our needs. That’s not the case. The good news of Jesus is not for us to keep to ourselves like these Twinkies. It is for us to share. And I will share these snacks with you later during our movie time today. Let’s pray.

Dear God, we think about times when we might have been able to share your love with others and we let the opportunity slip by. (Pause.) If we have not spoken up and talked to others about you, we are sorry. Please forgive us for being selfish and only thinking about ourselves. Help us share your good news with others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies needed: lunch box

Explain how the offerings are being used to feed other people or to share the bread of life with others who are hungry for Jesus. Talk about the mission project that the offering supports. It is especially effective if the money is going to a food bank. Ask the children to put their offerings in the lunch box.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Pass the Bread of Life”

Supplies needed: ping pong ball marked with a cross for every group of ten children

Form groups of ten kids. Have each group make a circle, facing inward. Put one child from each group in the center. Everyone else should keep their hands in a fist behind their backs. An adult will go around each circle and secretly put a ping pong ball symbolizing the “bread of life” into the hand of one child from each group. This child should try to keep the person in the middle from knowing that he/she has the ball.

When the game begins, that child will pass the bread of life in either direction to the kid next to him or her. While this happens, encourage the other kids in the circle to pretend passing the bread of life when they don’t have it to confuse the person in the middle.

The person in the middle has three guesses to correctly identify the person who has the bread of life while it is in his or her hand. If he does not correctly guess in three tries, the person holding the ball on the third incorrect guess will go to the center. The game can be played several times.

Learning Point:

The ping pong ball marked with a cross reminds us of the bread of life, Jesus, who spiritually fills us up. But we should not keep this precious gift to ourselves. We should pass it along to others.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read or present John 6:22-70 (or select portions of this passage) in a dramatic way or show the following video:

Supplies needed:

- video, *Bread from Heaven*, produced by Nest Entertainment, 1996, ISBN 1-56489-228-X (order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=BHD)
- Twinkies or other snack cake; several napkins

Introduce the video clip from the film, *Bread from Heaven*, produced by Nest Entertainment, 1996, ISBN 1-56489-228-X. The video is 22 minutes 25 seconds after the opening title.

Pass out the Twinkies or snack cake for kids to eat while watching the movie.

Application:

Many times when we share the good news with people, we forget that it is a lot easier to give them the bread of life and tell them about Jesus when they are really hungry.

When people have questions about God or have certain needs in their lives, they are much more ready to hear the good news. When people are not ready, sharing the good news with them may seem like preaching to them. One of the most important things we can do to help people get ready to hear the good news is to ask them questions. Here are three questions that work well.

- 1. Do you believe in God?**
- 2. Who do you say Jesus is?**
- 3. How do you think someone goes to heaven?**

If you ask questions like this and allow people to talk, will be more open to hearing the good news that you share with them.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Encourage kids to share times they have witnessed to others and how the good news was received.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- Twinkie (or a bite-sized brownie or other sweet “bread” snack that is individually wrapped)
- lunch box

Power of the Cross:

- Twinkies (Have enough so that each child gets half a Twinkie. They will be cut in half before the movie. As mentioned above, a smaller snack may be used so the Twinkies don't need to be cut in half.)
- basket to display the Twinkies (or snack) if there are too many to hold in your hands

Offering:

- lunch box

Learning Game:

- ping pong ball marked with a cross for every group of ten children

Bible Reading:

- video *Bread from Heaven*, produced by Nest Entertainment, 1996, ISBN 1-56489-228-X (order from:
http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=BHD)
- several napkins
- plastic knife (if Twinkies are used)
- plastic plate on which to cut the Twinkies (if Twinkies are used)
- other snack cake