

Katie



The Sunday  
School Lady



## JOHN 6 THE BREAD OF LIFE

**Scripture:** John 6:25-51

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Cotton candy, water, loaf of bread (sliced)

### Explain:

Last week we talked about the healing at the pool. After that, Jesus did two very incredible miracles that we will only cover briefly today. He fed 5,000 people and he also walked on water.

- Can anyone retell me these stories off the top of their head? (Allow for answers)
  - If no one knows the story, summarize it as shown below
  - If they do retell it, make sure they hit all the points in the summary below
- What do you think people's reactions to that were? (Allow for answers)
- All the people began to look for Jesus. They wanted to find him. I think I'd want to find him, too!

### Summary:

If you give a summary, it should include these points (See if any kids can retell these miracles to you first, making sure they hit these points)

- Jesus asked the disciples what they should do to feed the 5,000
- Andrew brought Jesus a boy with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish
- They ate and were satisfied
- 12 baskets were left over
- At evening, the disciples got into a boat
- A strong wind blew
- Jesus came out to them walking on the water
- The crowds went searching for Jesus

**Read:** John 6:25-31

**Play a Game:**

Place cotton candy chunks around the room (or outside) on parchment paper or plates. This will represent our manna for the kids to gather. Have more pieces than children. Before releasing the kids to gather, pull a few aside and have them gather two pieces. They will be able to save some for later.

**Say**

When the people mentioned how God gave them bread from heaven, they were referring to a time when they were wandering in the desert. The Israelites were upset. They didn't have any food, and they began to grumble against God. So God told them he would rain down food from heaven. At night, they received quail. In the morning, they got bread called Manna. God told them not to gather any more than they needed. One omer per family. So I want you to gather a bit of the food scattered around the room.

(Allow the children to gather. They can nibble on the bits they have gathered, but those who gathered extra must save the extra they gathered)

Say that God said to only gather enough for one day, but some didn't listen. Some gathered more, perhaps because they feared none would come the next day. They placed it in their jars in their tents. Have the kids bring their extra to you to place in jars. These jars will be full of warm water. When the cotton candy hits the warm water, it will dissolve.

**Explain:**

Our food is gone, but when the Israelites woke up, their extra food was full of maggots and smelled. This is the story that the people are talking about.

**Continue reading:** John 6:32-40

**Explain:**

Jesus is telling the people that he is greater than one of the greatest miracles of the Old Testament. Yes, God gave them bread from heaven to feed them in the desert, but the real bread, the bread that doesn't spoil, is Jesus. Just like Jesus said he is the Living water and the well that doesn't run dry, he is also the bread that doesn't spoil. He doesn't fade. And those who eat of this bread have eternal life.

Does anyone have any questions?

Now have the kids go around the room (or outside) and gather slices of bread and hold onto it for the rest of the story.

**Continue reading:** John 6:41-51

After you read that Jesus is the Bread of life, have the kids come up and place a piece of their real bread into the jar. (Obviously, bread will eventually turn to mush in water, but not like the cotton candy did). Explain that Jesus is the bread that doesn't spoil or fade. They can eat the remaining part of the bread.

**Explain:**

We don't actually eat the flesh of Jesus, though it is represented when we take communion. What Jesus means is that we come to him to be satisfied. We come to him to have life. Yes, we will be physically hungry again, and yes, we will die. But then we will be raised up to everlasting life. See, Jesus died on the cross. He gave his body and blood as a sacrifice so that our sins could be forgiven. We are all sinners. We have all made mistakes. And the punishment of sin is death. But Jesus took that death upon himself, died on a cross, was buried, and rose again. He says whoever believes in him will have eternal life. They will also rise again and not perish. But only those who eat from the bread of life-- meaning only those who believe in Jesus.

This bread is for everyone. If you want to have everlasting life, if you want to eat of the bread that satisfies, if you want to know the hope and peace of Jesus, eat of the bread. In this passage, Jesus said that whoever looks upon the son and believes in him has eternal life. You can make the decision today to eat from the bread of life, no not actually eating bread, but believing in Jesus' death and resurrection to save you from your sins. There is no special prayer, but prayer is a good place to start. You can tell Jesus that you believe in him, and that you want to have everlasting life. You can ask him for forgiveness from your sins and ask that he helps you to understand what it means to follow him. Then you can spend your life learning and growing, eating everyday of the bread of life, becoming more and more like Jesus.

If you made the decision to take of the bread of life, please tell a teacher or a parent. They can help you in understanding what it means to follow Jesus.

**Memorize:** John 6:50

Close in Prayer

Depending on the age and maturity of your kids, you could do communion in this service. Ensure that the children who partake are believers in Jesus and talk to your Pastor first for permission. If, however, you think that kids will just do it because they see their friends doing it, hold off.



Spread the cotton candy "manna" out onto the ground.



Have the extra disappear. Thankfully, the Bread of Life, never fades or spoils!

