



Children's Time

(Based on John 6:1-13, Feeding the 5000)

Objective: The solution to hunger includes not only providing food but helping people get the tools they need to care for their own families.

Props: Bag with potato or other vegetable or fruit, hammer, book, spade or other gardening tools or a package of seeds, coins etc.

What's your favorite food? Do you get hungry sometimes? What do you do when you're hungry and want something to eat? What do you think would happen if you didn't have any food at all to eat at your house?

Jesus told a story about a whole lot of people who got hungry. They were men and women and children who went to hear Jesus talk and they stayed and listened all day. In fact, they stayed so long that it began to get late and everyone was hungry. Jesus asked his disciples to feed everyone, but they didn't know how to do it. Then Andrew, one of the disciples, found a little boy who had 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. This boy wanted to give his bread and fish to Jesus. Jesus took what the little boy offered and said a blessing on them. Then the disciples went through the crowd giving out the bread and fish and do you know what happened? Everybody had enough to eat with even some left over. Do you know how many people were fed? Over 5,000 had something to eat because this little boy shared his food.

Today there are more than 5,000 people in the United States who are hungry. In fact there are millions of people right here in America who don't always get enough to eat. What could followers of Jesus do about that? Look at the items in my bag. What do you see? Which ones of these could we use to feed someone? *(The most obvious response would be the potato.)*

Are there ways we could use the other things in the bag to help people get enough to eat?
(Some possible responses)

- *We could give people seeds or tools so they could grow their own garden.*
- *A book can represent helping people get a good education or learning new skills so they can get a better job and have the money they need to buy their food.*
- *A hammer can represent projects like Habitat for Humanity that help people improve their living conditions. A hammer could also represent learning a new skill to get a job and have enough to buy what is needed.*
- *Coins represent collecting money to donate to charities that feed and help in other ways hungry people.*

There are many ways to help people who don't get enough food to eat. We can help them have good food right away. We can collect money for a charity like the Society of St. Andrew that saves food that would otherwise be thrown away and uses it to feed hungry people. Everyone needs food to be healthy, to be able to learn and to be able to work. We can help people learn new skills so they can find jobs or get better ones. We can talk to our Senators and Representatives and find out what they are doing to help people take care of their families. Jesus said whenever we feed someone it is like we are feeding Jesus himself.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for showing us that children's gifts are important to Jesus and that when we share, Jesus can do miracles. Amen.