

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 24

Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.

Living Faith

Jesus feeding the 5,000 is the only miracle retold in all four gospels. When a young boy's lunch was multiplied to feed a multitude, it showed God's power and taught a powerful lesson about his provision. This week bring your family together for a picnic to remember Jesus' huge impromptu picnic. Have family members choose their favorite foods to include or make a meal that's reminiscent of what happened on that mountainside. Maybe you can buy packages of flavored tuna and a loaf of French bread. Juice boxes or bottles of water work well, because they don't spill as easily. If it's warm enough, eat outside at a park or in your backyard. If the weather's cold, move your picnic indoors. Lay out a blanket in the living room and talk about Jesus' miracle.

- Did you know Jesus actually fed way more than 5,000 people? Back then only the men were counted. When you include women and children that number may double. Does that make this miracle more impressive? Why?
- Do you find it interesting that there were 12 baskets of leftover food? Why didn't Jesus make just enough food for everybody?
- What do you think the little boy thought when he gave up his lunch? Do you think he had any idea that Jesus was going to use it to feed everybody?
- What does this miracle teach you about God's power?

Note: You can read a great story of God's big picnic called "Filled Full" in *the Jesus Storybook Bible* on pages 244-249.

Extra Mile

Jesus used stories in about one-third of all of his teachings. That means one out of every three times that Jesus taught, he used a parable.

- Why do you think Jesus used stories so often?

Stories are still a powerful and meaningful way to explain God's truth. But today a lot of stories are told in movies. Watch one of Jesus' parables told in a modern way at: <http://modernparable.com>. You can also search for "Modern Parables" and click on the link.

When you get to the Web site, click on "Try a Lesson" and watch a modern twist on Jesus' parable of the hidden treasure found in Matthew 13:44. After watching the short film, click on "Go to Lesson 2: Living the Parable" where you'll hear a current application of the parable. In all the two videos last less than 20 minutes.