



LESSON 61

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Jesus is the provider.

Bible Character(s): Jesus

Scripture Reference: Mark 6:30-44



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Mark 6:30-44. Notice that

Jesus provides for both the physical and spiritual needs of others. Also read through Psalm 23 and focus on the needs that the Shepherd meets. Jesus is our provider, the provider of our salvation and our daily needs. Often, our needs are not met in our timing or in the way we think they should be met. The disciples in Mark 6 were unsure about how the need for food would be met. Jesus met that need, and met it abundantly. In the same way, Jesus meets all of our needs abundantly and in the way He knows is best. What need do you have? Have you asked God to meet it? Do you trust God to meet this need, or do you worry about it? Do you have your hope in other people meeting this need? Do you expect this need to be met in your timing, or do you trust God to provide for you in His timing?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

How Much Bread and Fish?

Take a piece of bread, and ask the campers to see if they can divide it to make a meal for everyone in the class. Then ask them to try to divide it to make a meal for everyone in Camp Grace. Next, on the white board, write the number 10 and underline it. Ask the campers how many loaves of bread it would take to feed 10 people, and how many fish it would take to feed 10 people. Write those numbers down. Then do the same for 50, 100, 500, 1000, 5000. Leave this on the white board for small group time



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE

by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will learn about God as our provider and that all things are possible with God. We will also take a brief moment to notice that God met a number of needs – need for rest for the disciples, spiritual need of the people, and the physical need for food.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What was one of the staff members worried about? (He/she didn't think there was enough money to build new cabins for Camp Grace.) What did he/she learn? (To trust in Jesus to provide.)

Last week, what did we learn about? (We learned about how Jesus forgave the sinful woman.) What did the sinful woman do? (She washed Jesus' feet with her hair.) Why? (Because she loved Him and wanted to worship Him.) What did Jesus do? (He forgave her sins.) We are sinners too, and we need forgiveness of our sins. We can come to Jesus, just like the sinful woman did, and we can thank God and worship Him for the gracious forgiveness he gives.

This week we are going to read an amazing account about how Jesus provided for His disciples and for a large crowd of people. We will study from this passage to see how Jesus is our provider.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Mark 6 [NLT].

Mark 6: 30-31

30 The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. 31 Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.

Was Jesus taking care of the disciples? (Allow responses.) Yes, He knew they needed rest. He provided for them and took them away to a quiet place.

All My Needs



The purpose is to identify all the needs that we have and that Jesus met in our passage.

Supplies:
Whiteboard

Ask the campers what the apostles were in need of in verses 30-31 (rest), and write it on the whiteboard. Then have the campers think of needs in their life (God's grace, house/shelter, food, clothes, doctor, etc.) and make a list of their ideas on the whiteboard. As you read through the following passages, you'll see the way Jesus met the apostles' and other people's needs (underlined as a guide). Write these things on the board, too. Instruct the campers to point out the needs that Jesus met as you read through the rest of the passages in the sections below.

Tie It Together



Jesus knew that the disciples were tired. He knew they needed rest. Jesus knows that we need rest as well. He knows exactly what we need, when we need it. We can write down any needs that we have on our whiteboard. We will also watch for the needs that Jesus met in our passage today. Let's keep an eye out for the other needs Jesus met in our passage so we can add them to our list. Let's continue to read the Bible in Mark.

Mark 6:32-34

32 So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. 33 But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. 34 Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Shepherd Job Description



The purpose is to see that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Supplies:

Worksheet "Shepherd Job Description" side (1 per camper)

As you read through Psalm 23:1-4, have the campers make a list by drawing or writing the characteristics of a shepherd they hear in the passage.

Psalm 23:1-4

*1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.
2 He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
3 He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.
4 Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff*

protect and comfort me.

Tie It Together



A shepherd keeps his sheep alive. He makes sure the sheep have water to drink and grass to eat. He leads them back home from the pasture and protects them from wild animals. If the sheep do not have a shepherd, they would die. The shepherd provides them with all that they need. Jesus is our shepherd as well. He provides us with all that we need.

Let's keep reading the Bible to see what happens.

Mark 6:35–37

35 Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. 36 Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

37 But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

The people had a physical need. They were hungry. Jesus was concerned about their hearts (spiritual need) and their hunger (physical need). The disciples did not believe that Jesus could meet this physical need of the people. They thought that it was impossible to feed 5000 people. How much money do you think that would take? (Allow responses.) It would definitely take a lot!

Let's continue reading the Bible.

Mark 6:38–44

38 "How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out."

They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

39 Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

41 Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. 42 They all ate as much as they wanted, 43 and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. 44 A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed from those loaves!

How amazing is this? Jesus took what He had and fed 5000 people with only a small amount of food. Verse 42 says "they all ate as much as they wanted." They did not eat just one bite, they ate as much as they wanted! After everyone was done, there were still 12 baskets left over. Jesus provided all of

these people with what they needed in an amazing way. God is our provider. He meets all of our needs.

My Provider Gives Me...



The purpose is to see how God provides for us.

Supplies:

Worksheet - "God Is My Provider" (1 per camper)

Help the campers brainstorm about how God provides for them and have them write these things down on their worksheets (protection, strength, rest, food, shelter, family, their very breath, life, His Word, salvation). You can read through Psalm 23 again. It might take some prompting, but campers should start seeing all that God has provided for them. Have the campers fill in their worksheet by writing down ways God has provided for them.

Tie It Together



Jesus will meet all of our needs. We saw Jesus meet many needs in our study today, even when it seemed impossible. There will be times when it seems impossible for your needs to be met, or you might think they will never be met. In Big Group, the staff member could not see how the numbers would work, but was encouraged to trust God and see Him provide. We know from what we learned today that we can trust God to provide for us, even when it seems impossible. He is our provider.

Wrapping It Up

We saw Jesus provide for His disciples and the people in several different ways today. He gave His disciples rest when they needed it. He taught the people who needed a shepherd to guide them. And He provided enough food from five loaves of bread and two fish for all 5000 people to eat as much as they wanted. It seemed impossible, but Jesus was able to provide despite the doubts of His disciples. We can trust in His promise to provide for all of our needs.

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Pray for any needs the campers may have identified from the passage, or any needs in general, and give God glory for His provision.



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