

Teaching Plan - A meal for a big crowd of people

Aim - To show that Jesus cares about us and meets all our needs



Welcome

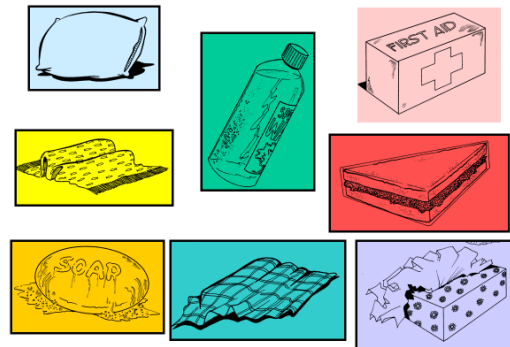


Bible reading: Matthew 15: 32 -39



Game

Meeting needs. Either use the PowerPoint *Meeting every need* or have the objects from Powerpoint slide on the table so that people can actually pick them up. Guess which object is needed when you are: tired, hungry, cold, wet, thirsty, muddy, sneezing and hurt?



Drama and/or



Talk

A big crowd of people came to see Jesus.

Jesus told them lots of things about God and how much he loved them. The people wanted to hear all about him - they knew Jesus was special and people liked just being near him.

The people stayed with Jesus all day - And the next day - And the next day.

They had eaten all the food they had brought.

All of them were hungry. Jesus looked at them. He knew what they needed - what do you think it was? (**Food**) Jesus wanted to give the people what they needed.

"How much food have you got?" Jesus asked his friends.

"Seven pieces of bread and some fish" they answered him.

'Everyone sit down please!' called Jesus. And everyone sat down.

Jesus picked up the bread and fish and said thank you to God. Then he broke up the bread and fish and gave some to each of his friends.

And the friends went round and gave bread and fish to everyone in the crowd.

Everyone ate. There was as much food as they wanted and seven baskets of leftovers.

Jesus had known what they needed. They were hungry and needed to eat. And Jesus was able to feed all those people with just a few pieces of bread and fish. Jesus always knows what we need and wants to help.

Question: Where you ever been in a big crowd? (The answers will let you know if people have an understanding of what a crowd of 4000 is like) - see **Powerpoint** for some crowd scenes or use some sound effects.

- At the football
- At a concert
- At a parade
- At the X factor!!



Prayer Time

Have a basket sitting on a table and a number of objects to represent things to pray about - could be

- A piece of bread
- A cup/mug
- Picture from a newspaper of a need in the world or locally.
- A photograph of a family member or friend who needs help.
- A key (to represent our homes)
- A CD or DVD to represent things we enjoy doing.
- A cross to remind us of Jesus

Ask people to bring things forward one at a time - either leader prays and group repeat it (echo prayer) or the person who brings the item forward says a short prayer.

Perhaps end the session with a piece of music or song (Taize - *O Lord hear my prayer is good*)



Possible Craft - Basket of loaves and fishes

You may want to print out the templates below and make a basket and fill with loaves and fishes as a reminder of the story. You could also print out a bible verse to glue on the basket.



Possible Songs

God's love is great (Prospects)

Jesus loves me

God's love is great (Prospects)

Perhaps the meal/snack could be extra special at this meeting - even a simple snack can be special if it is at a table set with table cloths, nice cups and saucers etc. (could just be some lovely bread with butter, jam) - let everyone sit at the table and spread their own - takes a long time but good time to talk and laugh together. For groups that normally have a meal together could do something slightly different to make it a special event

