



Junior Church

LESSON PLANS: 04-10-20

VISIT [HARVESTCITY.ORG/JC](https://www.harvestcity.org/jc) FOR VIDEOS, LINKS AND RESOURCES

Content and activity sheets ©2018 Scripture Union

Jump-up prayers

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to tell Jesus what we need and to know that he wants to help us

You will need: n/a

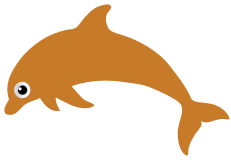
1. Ask the children what the people in the story needed. They needed food and Jesus helped them.
2. Ask if the children can think of things that they need, or that they want to say to Jesus.
3. Teach the children the response: 'Jesus can help'. Practise saying it together a few times and jump up as you say it. Then create your own prayers using the children's suggestions of their 'needs' as you crouch down and then jump up. For example:

When the people needed food (crouch down), Jesus can help! (Jump up!)

When we need a friend (crouch down), Jesus can help! (Jump up!)

When we feel very sad (crouch down), Jesus can help! (Jump up!)

When we want to say 'thank you' (crouch down), Jesus can help! (Jump up!)



Dolphins

(Age 3, F1 & F2)

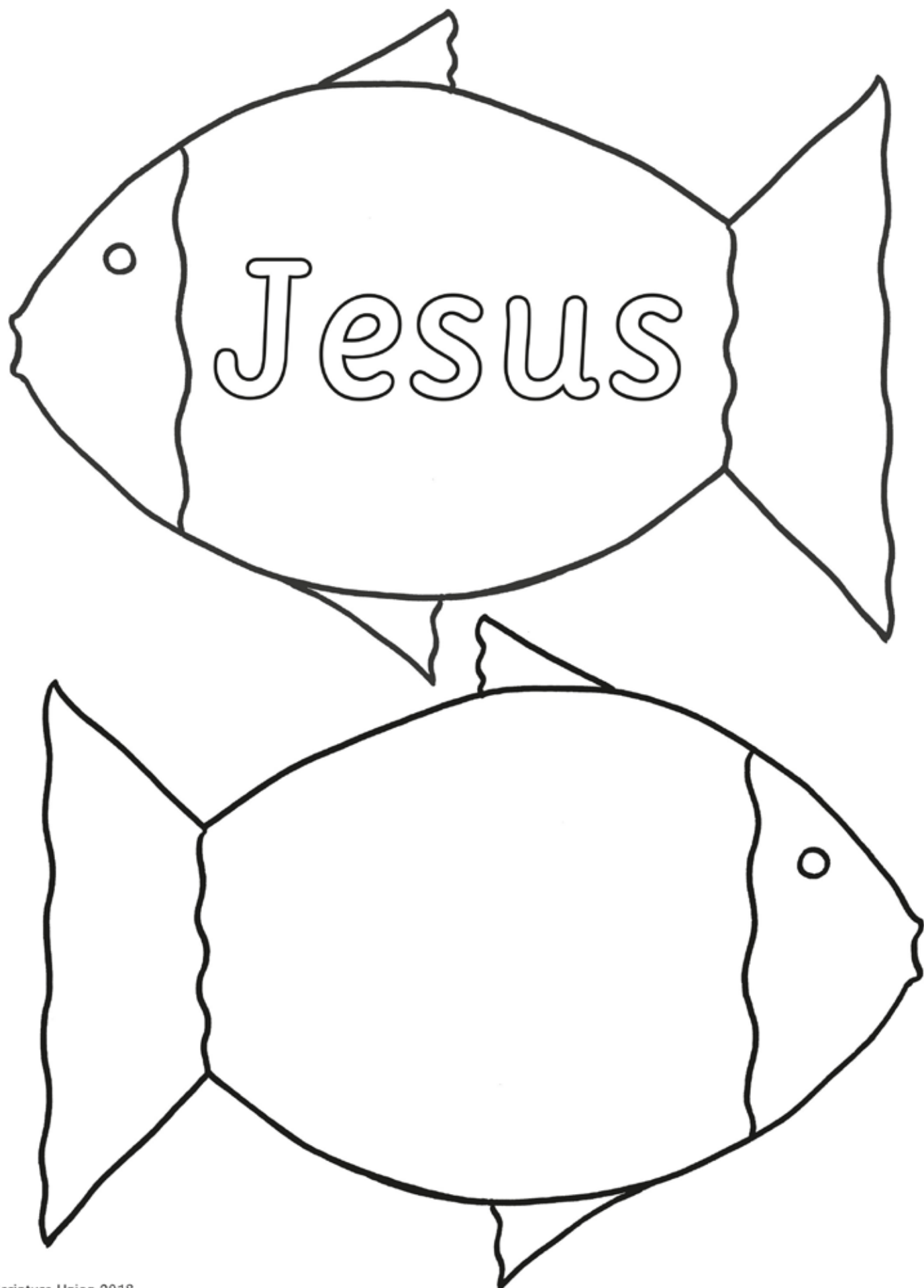
Fishy prayers

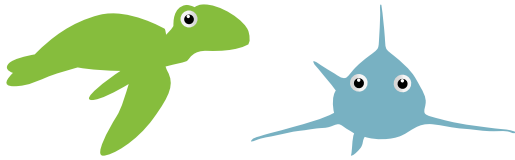
Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to remember that Jesus wants to give us what we need

You will need: cardboard fish-shapes from page 266 (attached – cut one of each for each child plus a few extras), metal paper clips, small magnets on string (fishing lines!), two large bowls

1. Cut out the 'Jesus' fishes. Put a paper clip on each and place them Jesus side down in one of the bowls.
2. Let the children draw themselves or write their names on a blank fish shape and put a paper clip on it. Take turns to put the fish in the empty bowl and then catch it again. Is there anything they need? Who can help? Let the child fish in the other bowl and catch one of the fish. See what answer it gives! Who can help us? Jesus!
3. Pray with the children, thanking Jesus for helping us with what we need.





Turtles Sharks

(Year 1 & 2)

(Year 3 & 4)

Think and play

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to think about specific ways that Jesus knows and meets our needs

You will need: copies of the Splash! sheet from page 267 (attached)

1. Before the session cut out the cards from the Splash! sheet on page 267. (You will need one set of four cards per child in your group.) If possible, keep one sheet uncut for reference.
2. Using the 'People' cards from the first column, ask the children about the four needs: How might the people feel? Have you ever felt this way? Using the 'Need' cards from the other three columns, ask how God might meet the needs.
3. Play 'Happy Families' with the cards. Each player needs to try to collect a set of four cards (they can use the uncut sheet to help them remember the sets). The first player asks another, 'Have you got... [Name]?' If they have, they must give it up and the receiver gets another turn. If not, play passes to the next person. Continue until someone has a set.

Here's how to play.



- 1 Each player needs to collect a set of four cards.
 - 2 The first player asks another "Have you got ... [name of card]?" If they have, then they must give it up and the receiver gets another turn. If not, play passes to the next person.
 - 3 Continue until someone has a set.
- Make sure you know what the sets of cards look like before you start

hungry



sausage & chips



sandwiches



apple



thirsty



milkshake



water



juice



cold



coat



home



warmth



lonely



family

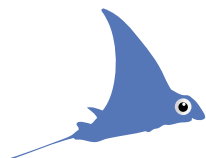


friends



hug





Mathematical story

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to be encouraged that Jesus knows and meets our needs

You will need: copies of the Xstream sheet from page 270 (attached), a timer

1. Imagine a crowd

Explain that today's story has more than 5,000 people in it; encourage your group to try to imagine how many that is by doing some maths!

Give each child a pen and a copy of the Xstream sheet from page 270. Explain that as a group they have two minutes to draw 5,000 people! Ask them to estimate how many will they each need to draw. On the word 'Go' they should start drawing their allotted number in the space on the sheet.

When the time is up, stop them. How many have they actually drawn? How much longer would it take to draw the rest? (Don't do it now!)

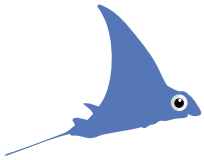
Another way would be to imagine a local sports stadium. Invite them to guess how many people would fill it. Put their estimate in the space on the sheet.

2. Set the scene

Explain that many people came to hear Jesus teach – women and children, as well as men. Today's story is about a time when Jesus fed a crowd with 5,000 men in it. Imagine that each of them brought one wife and two children with them – how many people would there be? Encourage them to write down their answer in the space on the Xstream sheet.

3. Maths and imagine

Encourage the children to write the answers in the spaces on the Xstream sheet from page 270 as you continue the story. See if anyone knows how much a small bread roll costs today, and write down the answer most children agree on. Invite everyone to follow in their Bibles while a confident reader reads John 6:1–6.



Stingrays

(Year 5 & 6)

Ask: 'In today's money, how much would it cost to buy bread rolls for all the people there? How much money do you think it would have cost in Jesus' time to feed all those people?' Invite someone to read verse 7 to find the answer.

So, what could they do? Ask someone else to read John 6:8–11.

Explain that Jesus didn't just give them enough, he gave the crowd plenty. Guess how much was left over. Read the answer together in verses 12 and 13.

4. More than food

Tell your group that Jesus may have felt very frustrated with the large crowd of people following him about. Many just wanted to see him do miracles, but missed the whole point of the miracle! Explain that Jesus wanted to give the crowd more than just physical food. He offered them something they needed even more. Now read John 6:35–40. Ask your group what they think Jesus meant by, 'I am the bread that gives life.' What is Jesus saying about what we need? Encourage your group to understand that following Jesus means that their most important need will be met, that Jesus loves us and wants to make our lives the best they can be now and for ever.

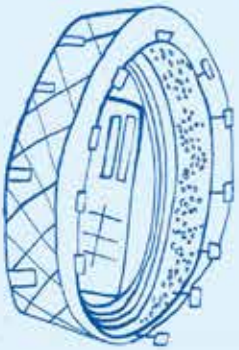
Number number

How many 😊 can you draw here in two minutes?



So, how long would it take to draw 5,000 😊?

Guess how many people fit into your local sports stadium.



How many men were in the crowd? Read John 6:10.

If they all brought a wife and two children, then how many people would there be?

5,000 + _____ + _____ = _____

How much does a bread roll cost today?

So, how much would you pay for 20,000 rolls?

20,000 x _____ = _____

How much would it have cost to feed all the people who were listening to Jesus? (Find the answer in John 6:7.)

Jesus said:

"I am the bread that gives life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry."
Thank you, Jesus, that even though there are billions of people in the world, you still care about all my needs. Amen.