

Dear Parent(s),

Wow, it is May! I have fond memories from childhood of making May Day Baskets and taking them to the neighbors. We would make a little basket filled with goodies and place it on their front steps. Then we would ring the doorbell, yell “May Basket”, and RUN! It was such a delight for the whole neighborhood.

Growing up in the Upper Midwest, May finally meant spring was here. There are several definitions for the word May. The parts of the definition that resonate with me are, “to indicate possibility, to have permission” and “bloom”. My prayer for you as we enter the month of May is that you will be filled with permission, possibilities, and that it will unlock freshness like blooms in your lives.

Be reminded as you engage your kids in the lessons this week that God has a way of taking care of our dreams and providing what we need at all times. At the end of the lesson there is a Family Activity for crafting a prayer for others that they may also step into fresh new possibilities and new permissions this month.

Fresh blessings to you and your households this week!

Susan Wertheimer

ELEMENTARY LESSON

Lunch for Everyone

Bible Story

To get started look at some optical illusions for kids which can be found on the internet. After you have looked at a couple explain to the kids that sometimes we focus on one thing or think about one thing so much that we forget about everything else. Today we’re going to discover what God wants us to focus on.

Read  **Mark 6:30-44**

Memory Verse

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

 **Romans 12:10**

Big Idea

God will help me notice and care about people’s needs the way Jesus did.



Family Questions

1. What was our Bible story about today?
2. Why were people in Bible times so anxious to see Jesus and hear Him teach?
3. When Jesus saw the big crowd, what did He do to help them? (Taught them about God. Fed them.)
4. How did the disciples meet others' needs, even when they were hungry, too? (Gave out food. Obeyed Jesus.)
5. When can you help someone at your house, even when you might be busy doing something else? (Help take out the trash. Pray for my mom.)
6. When can you act unselfishly in order to care about someone's needs? When can you be forgiving? (When my brother is sick, I can let him choose what to watch on TV.)

Wrap Up

We can learn two things from this Bible story. First, everyone in this Bible story needed something! Jesus and the disciples needed to rest. The crowd of people needed to know about God, and they needed food! Despite His own needs, Jesus wasn't mean or unselfish or uncaring. He always put others' needs ahead of His own. We may think that before we help someone else, we need to meet our own needs first. But that's not what Jesus did, and that's not what Jesus tells us to do. We need to look at things differently. We can have an attitude just like Jesus', and we can show love by helping others in need.

Secondly, we can also learn from this story about Jesus feeding the 5,000 that Jesus not only cared for the physical hunger of the people, but He also cared for their hungry souls. Mark tells us in his Gospel that Jesus had compassion on the crowd because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus' compassion led Him to teach the good news about God, despite His own need for rest. Jesus showed us then and He shows us now that He is the true Shepherd sent by God. Jesus gladly provides for all our needs.

Reflection:

If we're going to care about people's needs the way Jesus did, we can ask God to help us see things differently! Instead of only thinking about our own needs, He'll help us notice what other people need and show us how to help them. Pray and ask God to give you an unselfish and loving attitude so that you can care about people's needs the way Jesus did.

PRESCHOOL LESSON

Bible Story: Joseph Sold Into Slavery

Read the story of Joseph to you children from their Bible.

 **Genesis 37**

Watch the following video together:  **Joseph Is Sold Into Slavery**

Memory Verse

"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. The are good plans." **Jeremiah 29:11**

Family Questions:

1. Who was the Bible story about and what happened in the story?
2. What was the Preschool Big Idea? *Answer: God's plans for us are always good.*
3. Why did God make me? *Answer: God has good plans for me.*

4. What did the picture passes mean?

- ▶ Calendar—God has a plan for everyday.
- ▶ Tree: God has good plans for everything He has made.
- ▶ Backpack: When God leads me somewhere new, He has good plans for me to do.

Explore God's Big Story

We all face hardship, struggles and sadness. But just as He was with Joseph during his hard time, in the same way we can trust that God will be with us.

Prayer

Dear God, How wonderful it is to know that You are always with us and watching over us. Help me to trust You when I face struggles. Amen.

Family Activities

CRAFTED PRAYERS

Write out a list of people that you can act more unselfishly towards or that you want to pray for in the month of May. Pick one and craft a prayer for them?

Step 1—Ask God who you can act more unselfishly toward or pray for in the month of May.

Step 2—Ask God to show you His favorite thing about that person.

Step 3—Ask God what words of comfort or encouragement He wants you to say to this person.

Step 4—Ask God how you should pray for this person? Ask Him to show you one or two things you can pray about for them.

Craft your prayer:

Dear Papa,

Thank you for

Thank you for making

with a

(God's favorite thing about them)

Papa I pray today that

knows

(word of comfort and encouragement)

Papa I pray that

(from Step 4)

and

(from Step 4)

Papa I pray that you will bless them.

Amen