

JESUS' AMAZING MIRACLES

BIG IDEA

Through his miracles Jesus showed us that he cares about all our needs and that with God nothing is impossible!

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy expanding dinosaur capsules at the \$2 shop (these may be included in some Faith Box sets)

Gather small bread rolls or a slice of bread for each person

Cut out the six fish from the appendix

Rip out the page of smiley faces from the appendix

Find a tea towel

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

Today we are going to talk about miracles.

I've got something to show you.
I want you to tell me if you think it's a trick or if it's a miracle.

Let's watch carefully what happens to the dinosaur capsules when we put them in a bowl of very hot water.

QUESTIONS

Does anyone know the difference between a trick and a miracle? Can anyone do a trick?

A miracle is something extraordinary that happens which can't be explained.

Jesus showed us how he wasn't just the creator of the world but he is still able create miracles today. And miracles are a way God shows his love to us. We are going to talk about a miracle that involved a young boy and some things we have in our Faith Box.



GAME

(Use a kitchen timer or clap your hands as a starter gun.) PUT THE FISH IN A BASKET/BUCKET at one end of the room. Line up everyone at the other end of the room. Children take turns at running to the bucket and Mum or Dad must stand in one spot and throw the 'net' (tea towel) over their heads as they run, trying to 'catch' them. If the parent gets the net over the child's head before they retrieve their fish, then they are caught and have to come into the 'boat' with the parent. Let each child have a turn 'fishing', until all the fish are retrieved. Award a fish-shaped sweet to everyone.

Now lay out the fish and together work out what the verse says.

When people met and listened to Jesus they realised he was different from any one else they had ever known. Because he was God's son, he made unimaginable things happen. He healed people who were sick and talked to them about what God is like; how He is our loving Heavenly Father and wants us to live under the warmth of his smile.

QUESTIONS

What are some of the amazing things that Jesus did when he was on earth?

This story is about a boy who gave his lunch to Jesus. Jesus made it grow, but it wasn't a trick which could be explained... it was a miracle.

READ

PUT THE PAGE OF SMILEY FACES ON THE TABLE. Give each child a slice of bread or roll – in a napkin or bowl.

While you are reading, have the children break up their bread into as many bits as possible and see how far it goes by putting a piece on every face on the page.

☞ There were once 5,000 tired and hungry (and probably very grumpy) people sitting on a hillside wanting their dinner. They'd come to hear Jesus that day. They came before breakfast, stayed all morning, all afternoon, and way past dinner. No one had meant to be out there that long but that's how it was, listening to Jesus – as if time didn't exist. ... But they hadn't brought enough food, and they couldn't just go and buy themselves a burger and fries. (Besides, that kind of food wasn't invented yet.) ... "What food do you have?" Jesus asked. "Go and see."

Now, there was a little boy in the crowd. He had brought a lunch that his mother had made for him that morning. He looked at his five loaves and two fish. It wasn't much – not nearly enough for 5,000 – but it was all he had. "I have some," he said. Jesus' friends laughed when they saw his little lunch. "That's not nearly enough!" they said. But they were wrong. Jesus knew it didn't matter how much the boy had. God would make it enough, more than enough. Jesus said, "Bring me what you have." ...

"How in the world will Jesus feed everyone with just that?" Jesus' friends said, because they thought it was impossible. But Jesus knew the One who made all the fish in the oceans. ... How hard would something like this be for someone like that? Jesus took the boy's lunch, looked up to heaven, and thanked his Father. Then Jesus gave the little lunch back to his friends.

As Jesus' friends started to hand out the food, do you know what? It was the strangest thing, no matter how much they broke off – there was always more. And more. And more. Enough for 5,000! Everyone ate as much as they wanted – seconds, thirds, even fourths – until they were full. And still there were leftovers. ☺

Excerpts from Matthew 14 and Mark 6; The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, pages 244-248, Zondervan © 2007

EXPLORE

Guess how many faces are on the page.

Imagine that many faces at a big picnic. And imagine having enough food to feed all those mouths!

Would our five bread rolls be enough?

QUESTIONS

How many people did Jesus feed in the story?

How many lots of that many faces would that be? (50 lots of those faces!!)

Do you know how much Jesus' disciples collected up that was left over? (twelve basketfuls)

Why do you think Jesus used the boy's bread and fish to do the miracle? Could he have done it anyway?

Imagine if you had a packed lunch for school, as normal. Then one day you were the only person with a lunch. What would go through your mind? What would you do?

The Bible is full of people who obeyed God by giving a little – and a miracle happened.

A shepherd boy David conquered a giant with only one small stone.

God wants to use what we have. What we have is never enough to meet all the needs of the people around us, but when we offer it to Jesus to use, it becomes enough to be a blessing – and sometimes a miracle!

That means being generous with the small amounts we do have, whether it's things or time or attitudes.

Sometimes Jesus asks us to give to others even when it is hard, and we can start now with what we have.

QUESTIONS

How do we give things to Jesus?

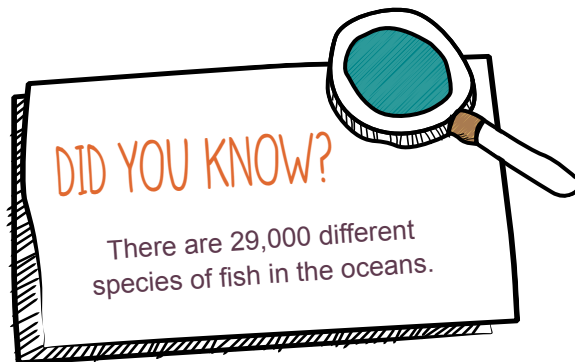
Do we have to wait until we are rich?

What would happen if we gave some of our pocket money to Jesus to use?

SHARE A TIME WHEN GOD HAS DONE A MIRACLE in your life or for another person in the family. (Parents might like to share first.)

Remember there are no small miracles!

When we say "We have only got..." God says "No worries – that's enough for a miracle!"



PRAY

Thank you God for the miracles you have done for us. God, please take even the little things we give you and turn them into big blessings for others. Amen.

LIVE

Start a family GIVING BOX to collect spare change you can use to help someone else. Have everyone donate some pocket money to the box and discuss over dinner how the money should be used.

You could give a surprise gift to show how you appreciate someone, or you could use it to prepare a meal for someone who is having a hard time.

Remember, in Jesus' hands your act of kindness may be a miracle.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

- 1** *As a family, make pikelets in the shape of fish for dessert or afternoon tea.*
- 2** *Go on a picnic (you might like to invite some friends). As you eat, ask the children to retell the story.*
- 3** *Get some old fishing magazines and have the kids cut out as many pictures of individual fish as they can – see how close to 5000 they can get! Paste pictures of the fish on a big piece of card, or plank of wood along with the Bible verse.*

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

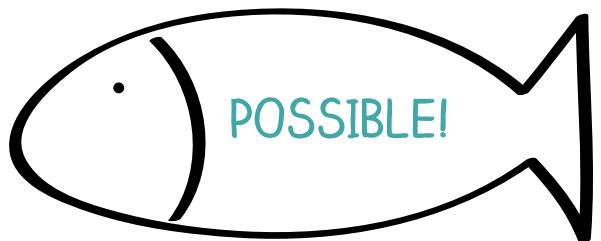
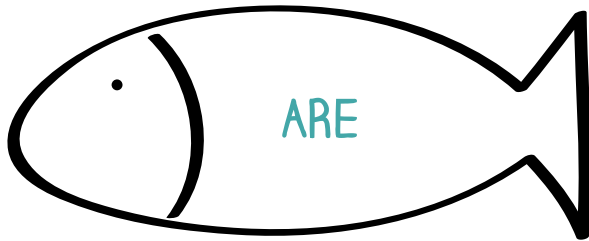
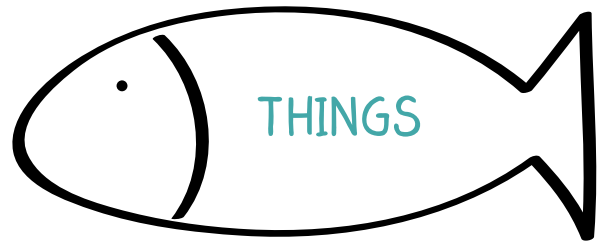
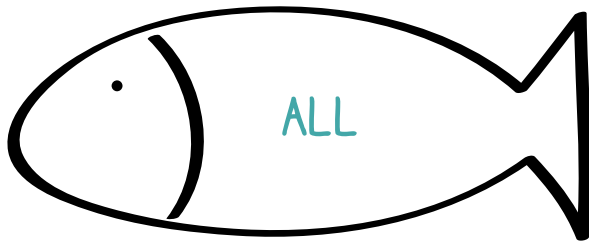
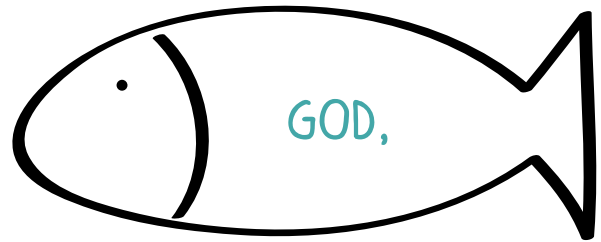
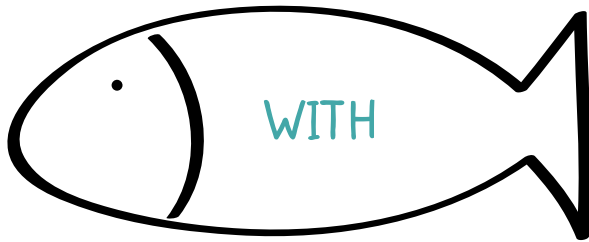
- *A bag of small boxes of pebbles (or smarties)*

APPENDIX



SESSION ONE

FISH SHAPE CARDS





SESSION ONE

SMILEY FACES

