

Topic: An Amazing Meal – Jesus feeds the 5000!

Family Small Group for FHC Cycle Week 2.16 (February 23, 2025)

Lesson Overview for Parents

Jesus showed his care and concern for people when he fed the 5000. The story of the loaves and fishes, as told in John 6:1-13, 47-51, points to the ultimate sign of Jesus as the Bread of Life. This miracle introduces the theme for the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts, which is the focus of this lesson. During the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts at Mass, the altar is prepared, and the bread and wine are brought forward by members of the assembly. A collection is made, giving us the opportunity to support the work of the Church and to contribute to the poor.

The gifts of bread and wine are placed on the altar and the priest blesses them and our gifts. United in prayer with the priest, the faithful (us) conclude the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts and prepare for the Eucharistic Prayer, where the bread and wine, and all of us, will be offered to God with Jesus.

Please note: We do not do a collection of money during mass. This does not mean we do not need to give our money to the church. There are collection boxes at the back of the church and in the Gathering Space or we can give online. It is critical that you help your student understand the importance of giving money to the Church and to the poor. After mass this weekend, consider showing your student the collection boxes and talk about how your family gives to the church and to the poor. Show them how you give.

1. Opening Prayer

Pray the prayer below together. This is a great little prayer to pray when you sit down at mass too! Have your student write it in their mass journal so they can pray it at mass. Pray it before attending our First Holy Communion classes.

2. Mass and Mass Journal

Did your student write in their mass journal this weekend?

Reminder: Students receive a small prize each time they write in their mass journal using their Mass Journal Bingo card. Students receive a bigger prize each time they complete a ROW on their Mass Journal Bingo card.

Prayer

Loving Jesus, help me prepare my heart to receive you.
Help me to offer myself, my gifts, and all that I have to you
with a happy heart.

Amen

Spend a minute or two talking about what your student wrote in their mass journal.

Ask them to write about what they see and how do they feel during the Preparation of the Gifts today!

3. Sacrament Book Readings

*Remember, you are your student's first and most important Catechist. You have options on how you cover the material below. You can read the information in the books below yourself and then talk about it with your student. You can read it together like story time and talk about it as you read it. We are asking you to focus on **parts** of the chapter. If you would like to go through the entire chapter with your student, you are welcome to do that too.*

Grades 1-3

Book: *God's Gift Eucharist*

Step 1: Chapter 5, pages 42-43 – Read the story about An Amazing Meal while your student puts the stickers on the pages. Ask your student: **What did Jesus want to do?** (to feed the large crowd) **What did the young boy do?** (he offered to share his food even though it wasn't enough) **What did Jesus do with the boy's food?** (he gave thanks to God; he told the disciples to share it with all the people) **Was there**

Grades 4-6

Book: *Loyola Intermediate Reconciliation and Eucharist*

Step 1: Read God's Word – Read John 6:1-13, 47-51.
Step 2: Chapter 11, page 47– Read the page. Discuss: **Have you ever given a little and seen how God multiplied it?** Maybe you gave just a little money or just a little time or just a small thing that someone needed.
Step 3: Chapter 11, page 48 - Read the page. Have your student describe what happens during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Walk through it step by step.e

enough food for everyone? (YES!)

Step 2: Chapter 5, page 44 & 45 – Read. Ask your student: **What gifts are brought to the altar at Mass?** (bread and wine) **What other gifts do we prepare as gifts to God?** (donation of money, our acts of love and service) **What do the gifts of bread and wine represent?** (all that God has given to us; ourselves) **Why do we give these gifts to God?** (to thank him for his gifts to us)

Step 3 Chapter 5, page 46 – Read the page. Ask your student: **Does the size of our gift matter to God?** (No. The young boy had just a little to give but God made it multiply. It is more important to give with a happy heart!

Step 4: Chapter 11, page 49 - Read the page. Have your student describe all the gifts God has given them. How do they share these gifts with others?

4. VERY IMPORTANT Formed Video

Before clicking the link below, log into your FORMED account or be ready with your userid/password to log in after clicking the link below.

This is a wonderful video! Be sure to watch it. Father Riley explains the Liturgy of the Eucharist to us.

<https://watch.formed.org/you-are-loved-1/videos/you-are-loved-ep-1>

6. Activity – Practice receiving Holy Communion

Find a small bowl and glass. Tear up a piece of bread or gather a few small crackers – put them in the bowl. Put a little water or juice in the glass.

Grades 1-3 – turn to page 94 & 95. Read these pages with your student – then practice

Grades 4-6 – turn to page 100. Read this page with your student – then practice

Have your student practice receiving Communion. Make sure your student bows before you say the words “The Body of Christ”. They make a throne with their hands (or if receiving on the tongue they open their mouth wide, tip their head back, and stick out their tongue). After you say “The Body of Christ”, your student should say “Amen”. Your student should put the bread in their mouth before walking away. Practice receiving both bread and “wine”.

Have your student give you communion. Purposefully do things wrong to see if they catch it.

7. Story Time

Now, prepare for our next Sanctuary Lesson on March 2. You may want to schedule time to read this story later in the week and then reread it before March 2. Be sure to put it on your calendar or make a note on your frig so you don't forget. Read the bible story below in your Illustrated Children's Bible.

Story Name: Jesus Calms a Storm and Drives out Demons / Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
Pages: 226-234