



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

February 8, 2015

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 14:13-33



A Feast for All. Object: A picnic basket.

How many of you enjoy going on a picnic? Oh, so do I! Well, I brought my picnic basket this morning and we are going to use our imaginations and think of things that might be inside if we were going to have a picnic. Let's see, there would surely be sandwiches, chips, cookies, and some soft drinks. Can you think of anything I may have forgotten that you would enjoy eating on a picnic? (Give the children time to tell what they would want to eat on the picnic.)

I think we have enough food in our basket for a pretty nice picnic, don't you? If we had all of the things we mentioned, do you think there would be enough food for our group of children? What if everyone in our church came to our picnic, would there be enough food in our basket for the whole church? What if everyone in our town came to our picnic, would there be enough food to feed the whole town? No way! You couldn't feed the whole town with just this little basket of food.

One day Jesus and his disciples wanted to have some time to relax. They got into a boat and went away to a quiet place to rest. When they arrived, there were people there waiting for Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. Jesus had wanted to rest, but when he saw the people, he loved them so much that he forgot all about being tired. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven.

Soon it was time to eat. The disciples went to Jesus and asked him to send the people away so that they could get something to eat. "They don't need to go away," Jesus said, "you feed them."

"All we have is five loaves of bread and two fish" the disciples answered.

Jesus told the disciples to bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people. Everyone ate until they were satisfied. Then the disciples picked up the leftovers and there were twelve baskets full! The Bible tells us that there were five thousand men who were fed plus all the women and children.

Can you imagine feeding a whole town of people with one little picnic basket full of food? With Jesus, anything is possible!

Dear Jesus, help us to remember that when we give what we have to you, even a little bit is more than enough. In your name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The servant of God took our infirmities and bore our diseases. Alleluia (Matthew 8:17)

Word Search Puzzle

Q	W	L	O	A	V	E	S	P	L	T	H	J	E	B
R	Y	T	G	B	V	G	S	B	X	O	A	H	T	A
F	I	S	H	L	A	N	D	E	D	W	U	S	Q	S
B	X	E	E	J	T	B	Q	A	P	N	I	A	J	K
J	B	W	I	F	K	H	O	O	I	S	A	T	W	E
F	T	L	W	T	Z	N	A	A	Q	L	G	I	C	T
O	U	A	L	B	K	Z	O	N	T	S	S	S	T	F
L	P	T	Q	F	I	P	K	X	K	P	B	F	M	U
L	F	E	J	H	E	A	L	E	D	S	E	I	Z	L
O	O	C	Q	T	T	M	L	S	C	L	F	E	C	S
W	O	G	R	J	E	S	U	S	C	L	B	D	W	C
E	T	M	F	O	Q	S	F	O	O	D	D	J	T	A
D	Q	G	B	J	W	E	I	Y	M	H	E	H	P	V
D	A	V	B	U	T	D	C	C	P	E	O	P	L	E
R	P	G	S	A	V	K	S	H	K	I	F	Q	K	U

LEFT	BASKETFULS	LANDED	FOLLOWED	LOAVES
THANKS	CROWDS	TWELVE	HEALED	FISH
ATE	FOOD	SATISFIED	JESUS	SICK
FOOT	PEOPLE	LATE	TOWNS	BOAT

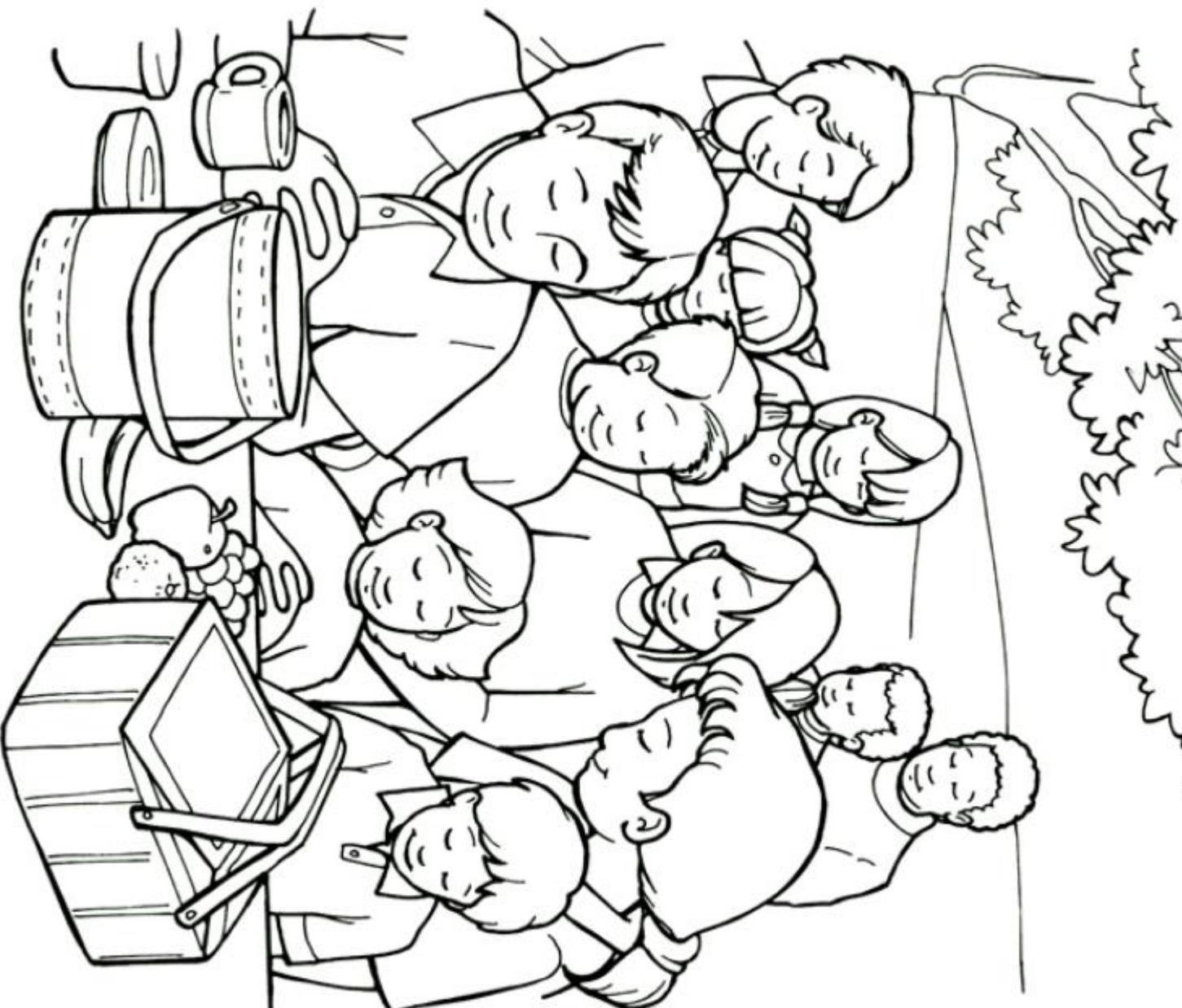
BREAD AND FISH: Let the children pass around a homemade loaf of bread and each child can take a piece and place in a small sandwich bag that they have decorated with stickers. Then let the children each take a handful of "goldfish" crackers and talk about the lesson!

ROCK ART: Let each child pick out a smooth rock and paint it and write LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT!

VISOR ART: Using some inexpensive visors you can get from a craft store, let the children write LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT on them and wear their visors while telling people how Jesus fed the 5000, etc.



JESUS CAN FEED A CROWD WITH A LITTLE FOOD



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