

MATH GOD'S WAY

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OPENING QUESTION:

What comes to mind when you think about harvest? Pumpkins, corn, grain, vegetables and fruit. (Make a balloon fish) Yes, fish as well – but you don't usually think of fish, because you can harvest (catch) them anytime, not just in fall. But in our story the number "2" and fish are important – you shall see! (paint "2" and the fish).

AFTER THE GRAIN is processed to flour one can bake a bread out of it (paint the bread). Now let me test your math skills! But I warn you, we will do math God's way, not the way you learned it in school. Surprise your teacher with this tomorrow! Adding up 5 (paint) and 2, what do you get? Most will dare to answer 7. But you write down = 5012! How come?

TELL THE STORY OF JESUS feeding the 5000 and the disciples picking up 12 leftover baskets in the end! (John 6:5-14) Dramatize Jesus question how to feed that many and the disciples answer that even the two fish and five bread are not enough. Emphasize that Jesus gave the blessing, "GIVE THANKS", before the distribution of the food. I also emphasize that the disciples served everybody, not just the first row. (We need to share the Good News with those who have not heard yet, as Jesus is the Bread of Life).

I MAKE SURE the kids realize specific details mentioned, like groups that had to be formed and that there was much grass (space) in this location. God's Word is amazingly detailed and always trustworthy. The people could eat as much as they wanted! God will satisfy all our needs in Jesus, especially the spiritual ones! But of course this happens every day - right? Happenings like this are a normal occurrence as bread and fish always multiply - right?. Oh, it is **not** natural, correct, that is why we call it supernatural – a miracle! Only God can do this! (John 21:1-13)

AFTER JESUS HAD DIED ON THE CROSS for our sins, was buried and rose again, the disciples were not sure what to do. So one of them said: "I'll go fish", and the others followed. After all, that was their former job. (Paint them in the boat etc.) After a

long nights work, the sun just came over the horizon (paint the sun), a man stood at the shore, next to a fire and told them: "You did not catch anything, did you?!" They had to acknowledge that their hard work (without Jesus) was in vain. Jesus told them to throw out the net one more time, but on the other side of the boat. What difference could that make, the disciples thought. But they tried it anyway and caught 153 fish! Peter realized it was the Lord, and did like you do when you go swimming – he put his jacket on before he jumped in. Well, he did it this way because he did not want to be naked before God, when getting out of the water. In the presence of royalty we want to behave properly! Amazingly Peter outswam the boat, as the catch of fish was so heavy – and yet, the net did not break!

WHEN THE DISCIPLES LANDED, Jesus offered them supper (Are you guys asleep? They worked the whole night, so what did they eat?) yes – of course, breakfast! Before they ate though, Jesus gave thanks again! After the meal Jesus might have repeated what he had told his disciples before: "Go fish!" Surely they did not need to go catch more fish, they already had 153 and put in lots of time working at this! Jesus meant they should go fish for men (write it in!) instead of going back to their old jobs. Without Jesus you will work in vain, wether it be a secular job or a spiritual one! With Him you shall bear much fruit! You know, in both stories the people recognized Jesus to be God when they realized a miracle had happened. Should we obey God? Sure! Does God lie? Never! The Bible always tells the truth! Jesus also will call some of you to be missionaries and all of us to share the Gospel with whomever we can – that's fishing for men and women for God's kingdom.



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