22.1 God Provides

Based on Episode 22: The Big Lift

FRIENDS AND HEROES

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Learning objectives:

- To know the key events in the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand
- To explore the belief of Christians that God will provide for them

Themes:

Prayer; Sharing what we have; Ordinary people used to do extraordinary things

Curriculum links:

Literacy: *Speaking and listening: whole and small groups; comprehension skills*

Creative: *make bread*

Vocabulary: *harvest, reputation*

Life applications:

How has God helped me during a time when I needed help?
How has learning about the teachings of Jesus impacted my Christian belief?

Episode summary:

The besieged people of Jerusalem are starving. Macky discovers the large stock of grain that Tobias has taken from a local villager. Lucius shares the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand to demonstrate to Macky that God provides even in the most difficult situations. Macky now needs to work out a plan to help the people in the city.

Bible reference:

Jesus feeds the five thousand
Mark 6:30-44

Resources:

Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 22: The Big Lift
This lesson is based on the first half of the episode as far as 10:11 minutes when Macky is considering how he will get grain into Jerusalem.
Copies of Worksheet 22.1a
newspapers, newspaper fish, scissors
Plain paper and pencils
Copies of Worksheet 22.1b (optional)
flour, dried yeast, vegetable oil, salt, sugar, warm water, bowl, oven

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Lesson introduction:

Play 'Flap the Fish' – see Worksheet 22.1a for instructions. Divide the class into teams of five. Dependent on the age of the students, you may like to prepare the game first or let students make the fish themselves. Ensure that they all have the same amount of newspaper though, to make the game fair.

Story focus and Activities:

Explain that the reason for the 'Flap the Fish' game is that in today's episode, Lucius tells the story of Jesus feeding five thousand people with just two fish and five loaves of bread. This was one of the miracles Jesus performed.

Show Friends and Heroes Episode 22 as far as 10:11 minutes where Macky is considering how he will get the grain into Jerusalem.

Ask students the following questions:

- What is the problem that Macky faces in this episode? (the people in Jerusalem are running out of food)
- Why is this a problem? (the zealots will get so hungry that they won't be able to fight and defend Jerusalem)
- What does Macky want to do? (he wants to get some grain into Jerusalem so that the zealots can make bread)

Explain that Lucius helps Macky to think about his problem by telling the New Testament story of Jesus feeding five thousand people using just five loaves and two fish. Give each student a piece of paper and ask them to draw a very basic outline of five loaves and two fish on it and then draw lines across each loaf and each fish, as though dividing them up into many pieces.
After a few minutes, ask students how many portions they have managed to divide their pictures into. Is it anywhere near five thousand portions?
Ask students to show you how much food they would each get if you tried to share five loaves and two fish between five thousand people. Agree that it would probably only be a crumb of bread.
Ask if anyone remembers how much food was left over. (there were twelve baskets)
Working in pairs, ask students to discuss how this could have happened. Discuss and explain, if necessary, that Jesus has performed a miracle. Something amazing had happened because Jesus had asked God for help and God had provided for the problem that Jesus faced in having to feed all the people.
Ask them how they think God might provide for the zealots in Jerusalem.
You could make five bread rolls and share them between the class. (see Worksheet 22.1b)

Reflection:

Explain to students that Christians believe that when they have a problem they should pray to God and ask him to provide a solution to their problem. This is not like magic. God may provide food or money if that is what is needed but, as in the story, he usually helps by using other people. In the Bible story, God was able to use the food that a little boy had in order to feed everyone else. Christians believe that it is important to be able to help other

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people – they may in fact be the answer to someone's prayer.
If appropriate, allow the students some time to think about something that they need in their lives, e.g. food, clothes. Who provides them with the things they need?
You may like to say a prayer, thanking God for the things that he provides and the people that he uses to do this.

Assessment:

Can students retell the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand?
Can they explain why the story was a miracle?

Enrichment:

You will find helpful additional material to enrich your students' learning experience at our award-winning children's website: ***www.friendsandheroes.tv*** *. The pages are designed to be child-friendly and are full of exciting puzzles, quizzes and games plus information about Bible characters, Bible places and the Friends and Heroes characters and storylines.*

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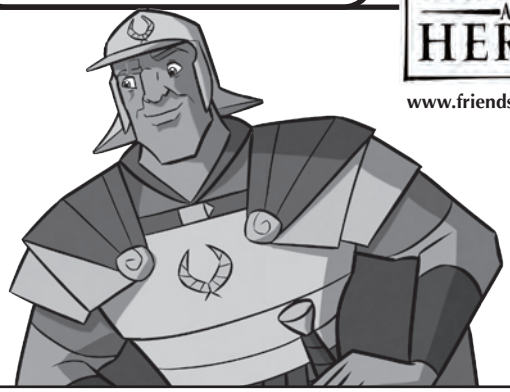
Worksheet 22.1a

Flap the Fish!



You will need:

- Newspapers
- Scissors
- Optional - paper clip to add extra weight to the fish

Cut out an outline of a fish from the double page of a newspaper.

Fold the remaining newspaper so that you have a good 'wad' for flapping!

When your fish and wad of newspaper are ready, line up single file by teams to play the game.

On 'Go' one member of your team must 'flap the fish' the length of the racetrack and back again.

The winning team, being the team that completes the course first.

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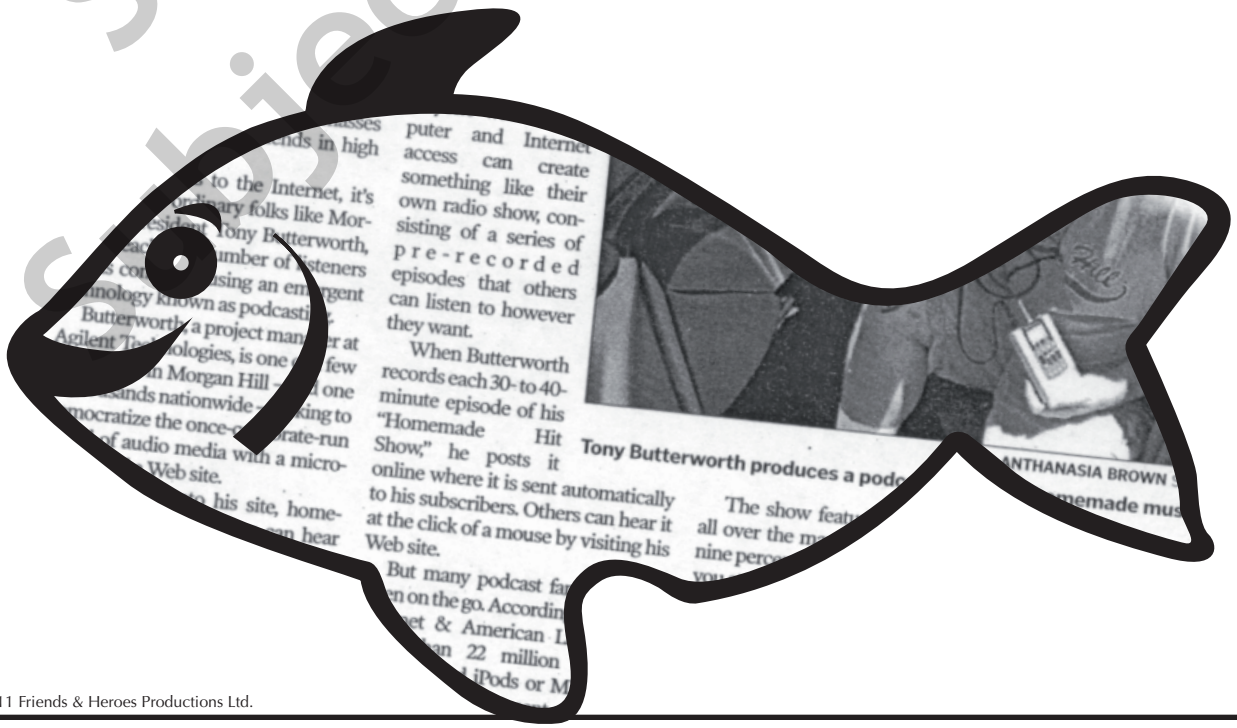

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Worksheet 22.1b

In Bible times, bread was an essential food item. Without grain the zealots, trapped in Jerusalem, were unable to make the bread they needed to survive.

Why not make a loaf of your own?

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 (.25 ounce) envelopes active dry yeast
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup backed brown sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup milk, room temperature

Home Made Bread

1. Measure water in a large bowl or stand mixer and stir in 1 tbsp brown sugar. Sprinkle the yeast over the top and set aside until foamy, about 10 minutes.

2. Add 1 cup of all-purpose flour and 3 cups of whole wheat flour along with remaining brown sugar, salt vegetable oil and milk to the bowl. Mix on low speed to blend ingredients. Mix on medium speed adding 1/2 flour at a time until the dough cleans the side of the bowl. You may not need all the flour.

3. Oil the bowl and turn the dough to coat. Cover loosely and set aside to rise until doubled, about 1 hour.

Divide into 2 equal portions and use a rolling pin to roll each one into a rectangle that is about 16 x 8 inches. Press out all air bubbles. Roll rectangles into loaves.

4. Place loaves into greased loaf pans. Cut a few slits across the top of each loaf.

5. Preheat oven to 400. Bake loaves for 15 minutes, then reduce temperature to 350. Bake an additional 30 minutes, or untl loaves are deep brown.

How much do you know about how bread is made? You might like to look at http://www.warburtons.co.uk/education/about_making_bread/activity/how_bread_is_made/index.html to learn a bit more.

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