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The dates listed above are suggestions. Please adjust this schedule to fit your church's needs.

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User Feedback

We want to hear from you!

Thank you for choosing to use Deep Blue. You can help us continue to provide resources that are relevant, engaging, and helpful. We highly value the comments and observations of our children's ministry partners. Please send us your feedback by completing the brief survey on our website:

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Our Mission

Reaching, empowering, and equipping children, and those who care for them, with grace-based resources that help them on the journey to:

- understand themselves as children of God,
- explore and deepen their relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and
- love and serve God and neighbor.

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Children Contribute
I Am Super
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Let's Compare
Packing My Lunch
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Television | DVD player | Projector or screen | CD player | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Candle | Multipurpose lighter | Bell | Carpet squares

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

The story of the feeding of the multitudes is the only one of Jesus' miracles recorded in all four Gospels. In John's record of this event, the miraculous feeding began with a young boy's lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. The feeding of the thousands—five thousand men, plus women and children—is told as a demonstration of Jesus' ability to perform miracles. But it is also the story of a young boy sharing what he had. Jesus used the boy's gift to provide for many. Jesus knew that people of all ages have gifts to contribute, and every gift is valuable.

We are not specifically told that the young boy shared his lunch cheerfully, but it appears to have been given willingly. The disciples are overwhelmed by the thought of how much food it would take to feed all the people. They told Jesus it would take more than half of a year's salary to buy enough food for the crowd. The disciples were ready to dismiss the gift of five loaves and two fish because it was not enough. How often are we reluctant to give because our gift isn't enough to make a difference? Have we ever rejected the gift of another because it doesn't seem like much? Do you sometimes look past the gifts of children and ways they can help? Jesus demonstrated that in God's hands, what seems like not enough is more than enough. The feeding of the five thousand is an abundance miracle. Starting with just five loaves of bread and two fish, thousands of people were fed, everyone ate their fill, and twelve baskets of food were left over.



5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)

GATHER

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “All People Are God’s People” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as he or she enters the room.
 - Indicate the location of the offering basket.
 - Help the children mark their attendance. (For the Community Attendance Chart, they will mark inside the building).
-

A—Children Contribute (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Gather supplies. Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 5).

- Distribute “What’s in Your Lunch?”/“How Many?” (pp. 11-12).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
-

OR

B—I Am Super (Art)

Before class: Gather supplies. Make a sample triangle.

- Distribute paper. Direct the children to each draw a superhero cape (triangle) on his or her page. (Show an example.) Let them each decorate and color the cape.

ASK: If you were a superhero for God, what powers would you have? How could you help others?

- Direct the children to list their super-powers on their superhero capes. Encourage them to think of different ways they can serve others with their super-powers.

SAY: In today’s story, a young boy helped feed five thousand people simply by sharing his lunch!

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring a bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Encourage the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.



5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)

EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
-

Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—John 6:1-15*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 5.

ASK: What can you do for your community?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 5).

- Distribute Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the Narrator part, then present “Children Contribute.”
-

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19). Review Unit 1 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 91).

- Recite the Bible verse, “The community of believers was one in heart and mind” (Acts 4:32).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
-

Transition to Respond

- Ring bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)



RESPOND

A—Let's Compare (Logical)

Before class: Photocopy "Let's Compare" (Leader Guide—p. 36), one for each child.

- Arrange the children into four groups. Distribute a copy of "Let's Compare" to each child.

ASK: Did you know this story is in all four Gospels?

SAY: Let's look them up!

- Direct Group 1 to look up Matthew 14:13-21, Group 2: Mark 6:31-44, Group 3: Luke 9:12-17, and Group 4: John 6:1-15.
- Instruct the children to write in their story rectangle things they notice about their Bible story.
- Bring the groups together. Let one member from each group read the Bible story to the large group. Then in the top box, direct them to write similarities and differences between the stories.

OR

B—Packing My Lunch (Game)

- Call for the children to sit in a circle. Direct a child to say, "It's time for lunch and I packed . . . ," and the child will name one item in his or her lunch. The person to the right will then recite the same phrase, adding her or his own item, but also naming the neighbor's item. Continue around the circle until each child has had a chance to share.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 5: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 5 (Class Kit—p. 25). Continue to display Poster: Meet Our Neighbors (Class Kit—p. 5) and Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 3).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 5 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about the mission.

SAY: Today is the last day for our mission project with The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC).

ASK: Who can remember what we have learned about JPBC?

- Say a prayer for The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), and carpet squares.

- Ring bell to acknowledge transition. Let the children choose carpet squares, then sit in circle on floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).



5. Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)

BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19) where it is easily accessible for the children. Obtain Poster Pieces: Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Kit—p. 27).

- Gather the children around the Bible verse poster.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Head” poster piece.

SAY: Everyone is a special part of the body of Christ.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute song sheets for “All People Are God’s People.”
 - Sing the song, “All People Are God’s People” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sign the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 91).
-

Blessing

- Invite the children to sit in a circle.
- Direct a child to turn to his or her right-side neighbor and say, “You are important and included.” Let that child then turn to her or his left-side neighbor and say the same. Work around the circle until everyone has passed the blessing.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to see everyone as important and special. Amen.

At Home with God

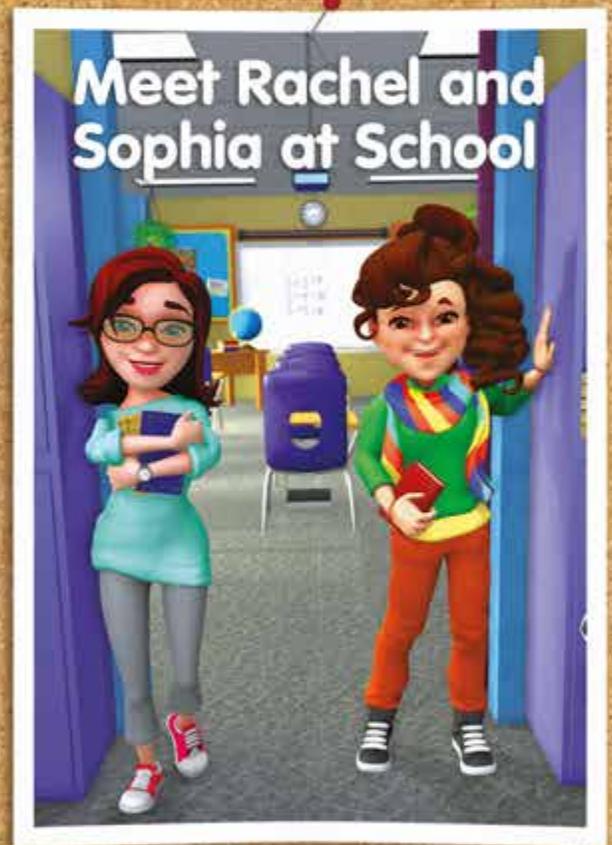
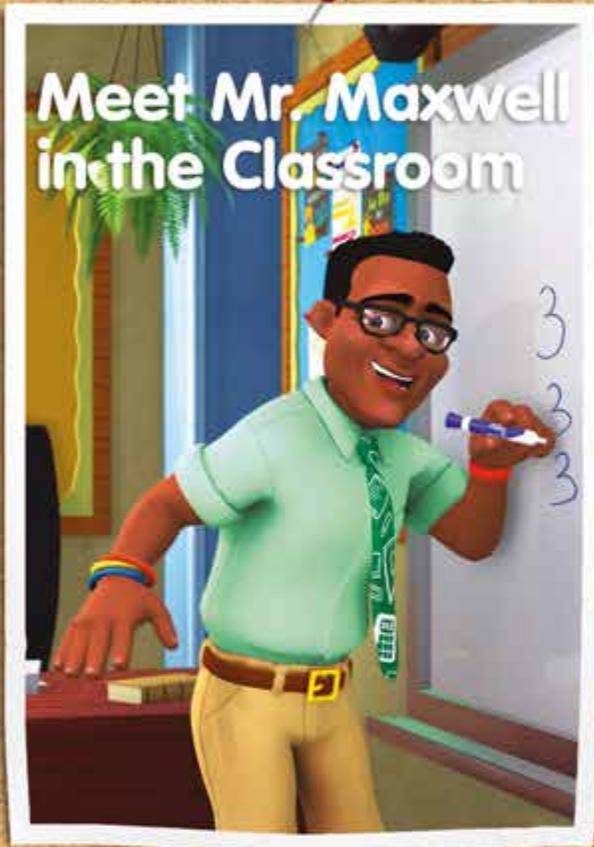
ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 5 leaflet.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

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COMMIT

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