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# Vol. 5 • No. 1 FALL 2019

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Cover design by Ed Maksimowicz and Jim Carlton. Other art by Shutterstock@. Cover illustrations by Tim Moen, character designer; Jesse Griffin, 3D artist; Julio Medina, 3D artist; Eric M. Mikula, facial rigging; Christopher Slavik, layout artist.

Art & photos: Four Story Creative: Page 1, all Sessions; Shutterstock®: all other images.

DEEP BLUE KIDS: OLDER ELEMENTARY BIBLE STORY SHEETS: An official resource for The United Methodist Church approved by Discipleship Ministries and published quarterly by Cokesbury, a division of The United Methodist Publishing House, 2222 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., Nashville, TN 37228-1306. Price: \$8.49. Copyright © 2019 Cokesbury. All rights reserved. Send address changes to DEEP BLUE: OLDER ELEMENTARY, BIBLE STORIES & STUFF: Subscription Services, 2222 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., Nashville, TN 37228-1306 or call 800-672-1789.

Printed in China.

To order copies of this publication, call toll free: **800-672-1789**. You may fax your order to 800-445-8189. Telecommunication Device for the Deaf/Telex Telephone: 800-227-4091. Or order online at **cokesbury.com**. Use your Cokesbury account, American Express, Visa, Discover, or Mastercard.

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19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28—10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 21 PACP1053661-01

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### BIBLE STORY RETELLING

# Children Contribute (John 6:1-15)

Narrator: A large crowd had begun to follow Jesus because they had seen him heal the sick. Jesus went up on a mountain with his disciples. Jesus had a large crowd following him even there. It was nearly time for the Passover festival.

**Jesus:** Where will we buy food to feed all these people?

**Narrator:** Jesus already knew what he was going to do, but he was testing his disciples.

**Philip:** It would take half a year's salary to feed them all!

**Andrew:** A youth who is here has five barley loaves and two fish, but what good will that do with a crowd this big?

**Jesus:** Have the people sit down on the grass.

**People (rest of the class): (**Sit down on the ground)

**Narrator:** Jesus gave thanks for the bread and the fish and gave



it to the people. Each person had plenty. Then he told the disciples to gather up what was left.

**Jesus:** Gather up the leftovers, so that nothing will be wasted.

**Disciples:** (Pantomime gathering leftovers)

**Narrator:** The disciples gathered twelve baskets of leftovers.

**People (rest of the class):** Jesus is truly the prophet we have been expecting!

**Narrator:** Jesus realized that the people were about to come and force him to be their king, so he left again to be alone on a mountain.



### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

# **Blessing**

Write a table blessing using the letters in the word *CHILDREN*. Add a word or phrase that starts with each letter below on the following lines. Say this blessing before your next meal.

C

Н

D

R

N



SESSION 5
Children Contribute

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



Most people think of a church as just a part of the larger community, which is made up of schools, businesses, and other organizations that serve people who live in a specific area. However, churches can be like small communities within communities. Like the larger communities that they are a part of, churches offer many opportunities for children to contribute.

It is sometimes hard for adults and even children to remember and see that children have a lot to offer to any community. Yet, children have and always will bring valuable contributions. This is especially true at church. Here are some ways that you can serve your church community: sing in a youth choir, take on a special responsibility within your Sunday school classroom, volunteer to help with activities for younger children, or volunteer in other ministry areas where there are roles for children.





Today, your child(ren) learned about how children contribute through John 6:1-15. Read this story together in the CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible.

## I wonder:

- How do you think the child felt when Jesus fed the large crowd with his food?
- Do you think the crowd was surprised when Jesus fed everyone?
- How do you think the disciples felt when they saw that there were leftovers?

As a family, make and share a meal that can be stretched a long way such as a stew, pasta, or rice dish. Enjoy the meal together as you discuss the story. Invite a few guests if you would like, and see how far you can stretch the meal. (You may want to prepare your guests for what you're doing.)

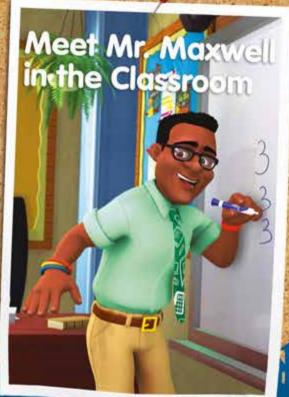
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