



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A – XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55,1-3; Psalm 144, 8-9. 15-16. 17-18; Romans 8, 35. 37-39; Matthew 14, 13-21

Jesus Multiplies the Loaves and Fish

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over— twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

Reflection

When Jesus hears about the death of His cousin, He wants to be alone to pray. He knows His Father consoles. But the people follow him because they have heard that He cures the sick and that He speaks with authority like the prophets. **What does Jesus do?** He feels compassion for them and cures their sick. **It becomes late and the apostles want to dismiss the crowds so they can find food. What does Jesus tell them?** "Give them some food yourselves." **How did the apostles feel?** They possibly felt confused or scared since they only had two fish and five loaves. **Have you ever felt this way when faced with doing a difficult or seemingly impossible task?** Share. **What does Jesus say?** "Bring them to me." **Do we take to Jesus situations that appear impossible for us?** Share. **What does Jesus do with the few fish and loaves?** He does a miracle and multiplies the fish and loaves after blessing them and breaking the loaves. **Was there enough for everyone?** Yes and there were twelve full baskets left over. If we follow Jesus and offer Him the Little that we have, He makes miracles and multiplies our blessings and inspires us to share them with others filling our hearts with Happiness in the process. **On what other occasion does Jesus take the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and shares it?** At the Last Supper, He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples. **What miracle did He do at the Last Supper and continues to do at every Mass?** He changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus (the Eucharist) to feed our souls. Just as Jesus satisfied the hunger of the crowd with the bread and fish, Jesus in the Eucharist fills our heart with His presence and love guiding us to Heaven.



Activity

On the next pages, choose an activity to relate the multiplication of the loaves and fish to the Eucharist.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for all you suffered to save us from our sins. Thank you for opening the gates of Heaven for us. Thank you for remaining in the Eucharist to feed our souls and to guide us to eternity with You. Amen.

Song: Eucharist Song, CollinsSusan (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/GEqnKMN1zE> (3-7 years)

We are One Body, Holy Spirit (Ctrl Click) https://youtu.be/N-3BO_PQbqY (8+ Years)

PPT: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10iKVdBNla6OZW3EaDP4R2Z3wnPPLIBTw/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

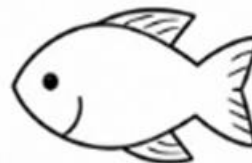
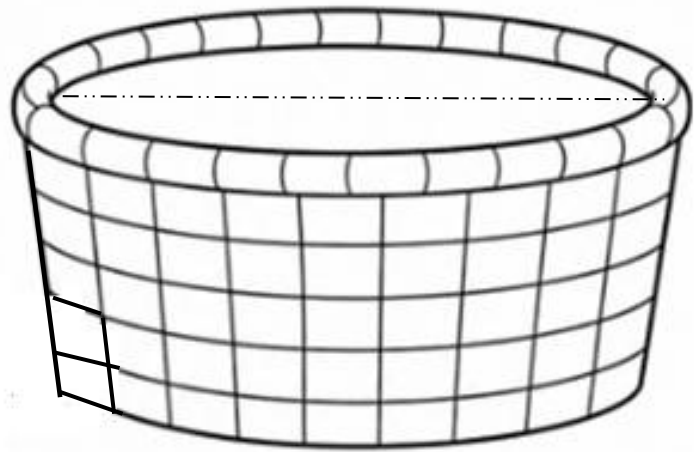


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Instructions:

- Prepare the base with a brown ground and a blue sky. Cut and color Jesus and the basket, cutting a slit in the dotted line.
- Cut and color 4 loaves and 1 fish. Fold like an accordion two strips of paper, one yellow the same width as the loaf and one blue the same width as the fish. Cut the folded yellow paper like a loaf and the blue folded paper as a fish.
- Insert the four loaves and one fish in the slit. Glue the accordion loaf and fish below.



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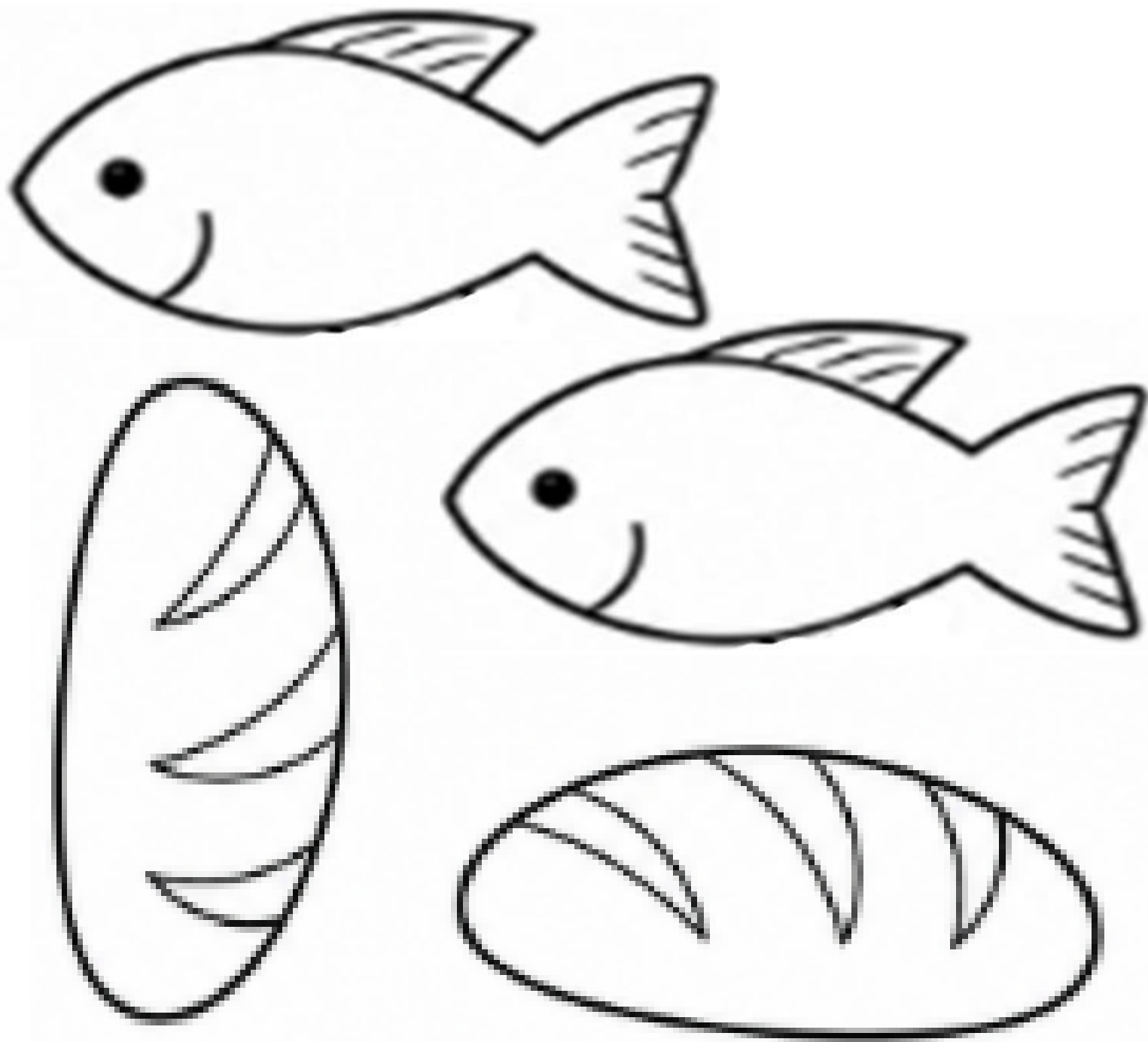


Play of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish

Instructions 1- Find 3 baskets for 3 apostles. 2- cut and color 4 loaves and 1 fish. Cut 2 strips of paper, one yellow the width of the loaves and one blue the width of the fish, long enough to fold as an accordion 8 times the height of the loaves and fish. Cut the folded yellow strip in the shape of the loaves and draw the creases on them. Cut the folded blue strip in the form of the fish and draw the eye, mouth, fin, and tail on them. Read the Gospel and have the children act out what they hear.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ





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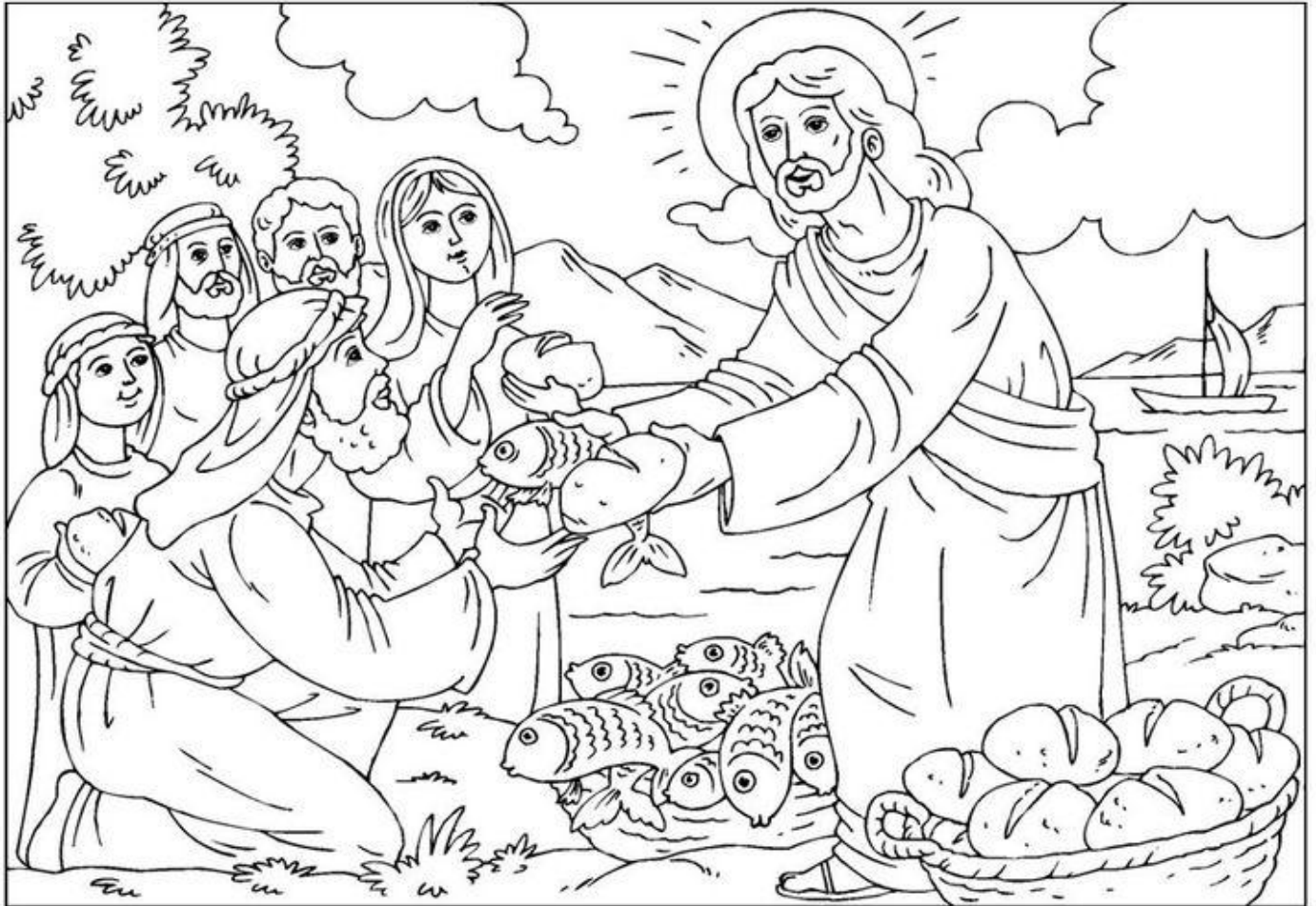
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JESUS FEEDS THE CROWD. Matthew 14, 13-21



Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.” But they said to him, “_____ loaves and _____ fish are all we have here.” Then he said, “Bring them here to me,” and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the _____, _____ the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were _____, and they picked up the fragments left over _____ wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting _____ and _____.

(Fill in the blanks with the following words: twelve, children, five, blessing, two, satisfied, broke, women)