

Children's Message  
2014-2015 Gift Catalog

## Be Strong

How are you strong? What things do you do that need a lot of muscle and power?

Have you ever been so powerful that you made food for 5,000 people all at once?

**Jesus has the power to make food for 5000 people all at once.** Listen to this story...

**5** “When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” **6** He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

**7** Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

**8** Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, **9** “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

**10** Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). **11** Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

**12** When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” **13** So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. (John 6:5-13 NIV)

In this story Jesus took a kid’s small gift and made it into something big enough to feed 5,000 people. They even had twelve baskets left over.

**Do you think Jesus still has the power to make food for 5,000 people?**

Yes! Jesus has the power to turn our small gifts it into something big!

Look at these cute little fruit seedlings (page 6) in the World Renew gift catalog. When someone gives the gift of a fruit seedling Jesus has the power to grow that little seedling into a big fruit tree. And then what does that big fruit tree do?

That big fruit tree makes food to eat. It makes the soil more healthy so more plants can grow. It makes fruit to sell so that people can use the money to buy more seedlings which will also make more food. The little seedling keeps going and going and a small gift benefits thousands of people.

**Jesus has the power to do big things with our small gifts!** What will you give?

--Kris Van Engen  
Congregational Justice Mobilizer