



## Elementary Sunday School Lesson for the *2014-2015 World Renew Gift Catalog*

**Time: Approx. 50 minutes**

**Outcomes:**

- 1) Kids know that Jesus is powerful and that with him they can be powerful too.
- 2) Kids know which projects are available in the gift catalog and can express the ones that are important to them and why.
- 3) Kids know that World Renew projects can be self-sustaining and even multiply.

**Step 1: Hand Out and Explore** (3-5 min.)

Pass out gift catalogs to the children in the classroom. Ask them to look through the catalog and tell you what they notice. Ask if they have heard about the World Renew gift catalog before, or if they have ever given gifts from a catalog like this one.

**Step 2: Story Time** (6 min.)

Ask the children to put down their catalogs so that they can listen to a Bible story. **Pray with the group that the Holy Spirit will speak through the story.**

**Read John 6:5-13.** (You could use Google to find suitable pictures and print them in color to hold up for the class to look at during the 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 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 it 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)

**Step 3: Reflection** (10 min.)

Use these discussion ideas to help the children to deduce that Jesus has the power to make small gifts

into something big.

- What character did you like in this story?
- Jesus asked Philip where they could get food to feed the crowd but Philip didn't know what they could do. Andrew saw that there were five loaves of bread and two fish but thought that would not be enough food for so many people. **Talk about how Jesus had power to change the story.**
- What do you think the disciples felt like when they saw the food being multiplied again and again?
- How would you feel if you were in the crowd of people and saw the food being multiplied again and again?
- What might have happened in this story if Jesus did not have this power?
- How did Jesus turn such a small amount into so much?
- I wonder if there are still hungry people. I wonder if Jesus can still turn small gifts into something big.
- Today Jesus uses people to turn small gifts into something big.
- What small gifts could you share that Jesus could turn into something big?

### **Step 7: Conclusion** (5 min.)

Jesus started with only a small amount of food. Jesus took that small amount and fed over 5,000 people. There was even food left over! Jesus uses gifts, big and small, and makes them count in big ways!

When we give even in small ways, like with this gift catalog, it's a big deal. Jesus works through the people who receive the gifts. Together they make it into so much more to share with many more people. You might give a goat. Jesus will use the person who receives that goat to feed many more people with the goat. You might give a machine that makes clean water. The person who receives the clean water machine can use it to give clean water to lots of their neighbors. You could give a person a gift of learning how to read and that person could teach more people to how read. Jesus works through people to make our small gifts huge!

### **Step 8: Examples of Small Gifts** (7-10 min.)

Ask the children to once again look at their gift catalog, and this time pick out the gift they like the most. Ask them to cut out the picture and description and paste it to a piece of paper. Ask them to draw or write why that gift seems important to them on their piece of paper. Encourage them to think about how that gift might multiply.

### **Step 9: Activity** (7-10 min.)

Bring supplies for trail mix: peanuts, M&Ms, raisins, Cheerios, Chex cereal, and so on. Split each ingredient into a cup for each child. Make sure that each cup has only one ingredient (raisins, Cheerios, etc.). Bring a large bowl which you put into the center of the room. Pass out a cup of snacks to each child, and then explain that each student must share their snack with everyone else. If every child shares their snack by putting it into the bowl, then everyone can share in something delicious. Invite them to also take some with them, as you dismiss, to share with a family member. (Optional: give a couple of the children empty cups. Explain that in order for them to also have a snack, everyone else needs to share).\*

**Step 10: Closing Prayer:** Give thanks to Jesus for the many gifts that he gives us. Ask Jesus to multiply the gifts that we give. Give thanks that we get to honor Jesus by giving.

--Kris Van Engen  
Congregational Justice Mobilizer

\* Activity adapted from [childrensministry.com](http://childrensministry.com).