

Teddy bears' picnic

– telling the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand



Make the most of the summer weather by holding a teddy bears' picnic and telling the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand.

Ask everyone to bring a teddy or soft toy dressed for the occasion, a rug and some sandwiches. You may also like to ask your helpers could provide some extras for everyone to share such as cocktail sausages, carrot sticks and iced cupcakes decorated with hundreds and thousands. To tell the story, you will need a teddy and a small box or basket filled with five bread rolls and two cooked sardines or fish fingers.

Welcome to our picnic, everyone! Teddy's having a great time . . . *(jump him up and down).*

He wants you to see what he's packed in his picnic. Look! Bread and fish! *(Open the box and encourage everyone to count the bread and the fish as you bring them out.)*

Would that be enough to feed everyone here today? Hmm! Not really. But that reminds me of a Bible story about a boy and his picnic . . .

"Is it time for our picnic tea on the hill?" asked Luke.

"Nearly!" said Mum. "I've baked the bread and cooked the fish."

"I'll put them in the basket," said Luke. "Can you help me count them? *(All counting)* . . . One, two, three, four, five bread rolls. And . . . one, two fish. Five loaves and two fish! Come on, then!"

Luke's feet ran *pitter-patter, pitter-patter* along the dusty path. But when he saw the hillside, he stopped still in surprise.

"Mum, look at all the people on our hill. There are hundreds and thousands of them! Too many to count! Are they having a picnic, too?"

Mum laughed. "No, they've all come to see Jesus. Look! He's the man sitting on that rock."

"Why do they want to see him?" asked Luke.

"Oh, Jesus is *amazing!*" said Mum. "Wherever he goes, amazing things happen. He made rain clouds blow away when there was a terrible storm on the lake and out came the sun! People who couldn't walk, JUMP out of bed! And he tells amazing stories! Let's go and listen!"

Luke sat on the grass close to Jesus and his friends. Mum was right. The stories Jesus told were so exciting that he didn't notice the sun going down and the stars beginning to twinkle in the night sky.

"Hey, Mum!" whispered Luke. "We haven't even started our picnic yet and my tummy's going *rumble, rumble!*"

"I expect *everyone's* hungry!" said Mum. "But we're the only ones with a picnic."

"Shall we share it?" asked Luke.

Mum smiled. "That's very kind of you. But we don't have enough to feed everyone!"

Then Jesus spoke to Luke. "How many loaves do you have?"

Luke grinned. "Here you are! I have . . . (*all counting*) one, two three, four, fives loaves and . . . (*all counting*) one, two fish!"

"Thank you, Luke! That's a great help."

Jesus held the small picnic, looked up to the sky, and said, "Thank you, God, for these five loaves . . . and these two fish."

He broke the bread and fish into small pieces. Then he asked his friends to share the food with all the people on the hillside – more than five thousand of them!

Would you believe it? Everyone had plenty to eat.

"I'm full up!" said Luke, as they walked home. "Jesus *is* amazing! He fed . . . one, two, three, four, five thousand people with my tea!"

A thank you song

One, two, three, four, five,
Thank you that I am alive!
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Thank you for my food. *Amen.*

