

Lesson 7

God Gives Me Good Things

Bible Lesson: John 6:1-14

Memory Verse: Every good thing and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. *James 1:17*

Enrichment Memory Verse: “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” *Matthew 7:9-11*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ That though we often use the words “my” and “mine,” it is important to realize the things we have are gifts from God and belong to Him
- ✦ That Jesus performed miracles
- ✦ That students can honor and glorify God by wisely using the gifts He has given

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

1. A small smoked fish (a can of sardines would work also)

2. A small loaf of unsliced bread
3. Knife and fork to cut and distribute the fish and bread
4. Small paper plate or napkin for each student

Prayer Preparation

As you prepare for this lesson, thank God for the gifts He has bestowed upon you, and ask for His guidance in how to wisely use these gifts to bring honor and glory to His name. Thank God for each of your students. Ask Him to prepare their hearts to receive the truths found in this lesson.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The feeding of the 5,000 shows the compassion, the power, and the generosity of Jesus. This miracle is the only one, besides the resurrection, that is recorded in all four Gospels.

Jesus was ministering in the area of the Sea of Galilee where He often found large crowds of people following Him. On this occasion, the crowd numbered well over 5,000 since women and children were not included in the count (see Matthew 14:21). Among the Jews, women and children were not permitted to eat with men in public. They ate in a place by themselves but were, on this occasion, also fed by the miraculous multiplication of bread.

On this day Jesus had withdrawn with the disciples to a solitary place. But people soon learned where He was, and as the hours passed, the crowd of people bringing their needs to Jesus increased greatly. Jesus healed many sick people that day.

Jesus' Compassion

Toward evening, the disciples urged Jesus to send the people home because there was not food to feed them. Jesus responded, “Don’t send them away. Give them something to eat.” Philip quickly calculated the cost of the

food needed to serve such a crowd and replied, “If we were to give each person only a bite it would take more than what a man earns in eight months to buy it.”

In the minds of the disciples the only solution was to send the people home before it got dark so that the people could buy food in the small villages on the way. Jesus knew from the beginning what He was going to do and permitted the people to stay as long as possible.

Jesus’ Power

As they had passed among the crowd of people, the disciples met a young boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish. We don’t know of sure, but perhaps the boy had been sent on an errand for the day, with a lunch that would satisfy him until he got home. Perhaps he had been attracted by the crowd following Jesus and became so caught-up in the events of the day that he didn’t take time to eat his lunch. It appears that when the disciples began to think of food for this large multitude, this young boy offered them his lunch.

The disciples reported their discovery to Jesus. He then asked them to bring the loaves and fish to Him and to have the people sit down to eat. The disciples were perplexed. It would not be proper to ask the people to sit down to eat if there was only enough to feed one person. Yet, at the command of Jesus, they obeyed.

Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks. His heavenward look was for the benefit of the people. They were to know that their help was coming from God. Jesus then broke the loaves and fish so that each of the disciples had some to distribute to the crowds. The disciples in turn went through the crowds, handing out food to everyone. Miraculously, there was enough food to satisfy everyone’s hunger.

Jesus’ Generosity

Jews regarded bread as a gift from God. Any scraps that would fall on the ground during a meal were to be picked up. Now, too, the disciples were instructed by Jesus to go around and gather up what was left over. They did so and each one returned with a full basket of bread. Jesus had provided an abundant supply—more than was needed. But it was His will that nothing that had been provided be wasted.

So it is with our daily bread. God generously provides us with more than we need. We should thank Him for His generous provisions and take care that we do not waste or misuse what He has given.

God gives good gifts. He has promised those who trust Him that He will always provide everything that they need (Philippians 4:19). For all this we are to be truly thankful.

B. Creed Study

The Lord’s Prayer was given by Jesus to His disciples. In the fourth petition we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” This petition given to us by God tells us to pray that God would provide for us in these First Article gifts. We say in the Creed that we believe God provides and then in the Lord’s Prayer we ask that God would continue to be faithful to His promises.

We can do this because of the revealed character of God. Jesus says in Matthew 7:9-11, “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”

We thank God for the food that sustains us and the clothes that keep us warm. We thank Him for providing homes that keep us out of the elements and which we can rest secure in. We often take these things for granted for we consider them so ordinary. More often than not, God provides for us our daily bread, through regular means. But He has on occasion used miraculous means to graciously provide for the physical needs of some.

John 6 tells us that we believe in the one who can provide for the needy multitude. Jesus fed 5,000 people from five loaves and two fish. Later in the chapter it is made abundantly clear that Jesus can do this in regard to physical needs and also in our spiritual needs. The One that we confess to believe in is generous in giving. What an amazing experience it must have been for the disciples to gather twelve baskets with the left over bread from this meal!

We read in Luther’s meaning that we are even confessing that God has provided us with the families we have. Many of us were born into homes that had moms and dads working hard to provide for and raise us up. Others have been adopted, brought into a family and cared for through God’s guidance and wisdom. Even our siblings are given to us. Not to just be our punching bags or targets for our verbal “arrows,” but our brothers or sisters are God’s provision to us as companions and friends through stage after stage of our lives. This discussion of family might begin to lead us into considering the family of God that we are adopted into through faith. Much of that discussion will come in the following parts of the Creed.

In Acts 2:44-45 it states, “And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.” These Christians knew that God had given them these good gifts, as He gives all good gifts (James 1:17). They recognized that the gifts could be used to help others and through them that others could receive from God their “daily bread.” It is an amazing thing to consider that we can be used of God to help others receiving good things from God!

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Greet students by name as they come to class.

Open with Prayer

Thank God for the chance to study His Word today. Thank Him that He has so graciously provided for all our needs.

Ask God to open the students’ hearts and minds to receive and understand today’s lesson

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Proverbs 9:9-10

And

From the Catechism: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul . . .

Review

Use the following questions to review lesson 6:

1. The man you learned about in lesson 6 was King David’s son. What was his name? *(Solomon)*
2. When Solomon became king, what did he ask for? *(wisdom and/or discernment)*
3. Why did two women come to Solomon? *(The women came because one of their babies had died and they both claimed to be the mother of the living child. They wanted Solomon to decide who the living baby belonged to.)*
4. Who gave Solomon his wisdom and discernment? *(God. God is the giver of all good things.)*

Introduce Wall Words

glaring—extremely angry looking

belong—to be owned by

compassion—a deep concern or love for someone or something

performing—to be doing something

denarii—a silver Roman coin. During the time of Jesus, a denarii was the amount of money received for a full day’s work.

distributing—handing out, giving out, or sharing

Introduce the Lesson

Allow a couple minutes for each student to share about the toy he/she brought to class.

THANK the students for telling the class about their toy. Then **ASK** each student, “Whom does your toy belong to?” *(Most students will answer that the toy belongs to them.)*

Teach the Lesson

SAY Today’s lesson begins with two children arguing over a toy that was a gift to them from their father.

DIRECT students to turn in their books to page 27.

SAY the lesson title is “God Gives Me Good Things.” Let’s **READ** what the disagreement is all about and what it teaches us about the gifts we receive.

While the students follow along silently, **READ** the story about Tommy and his sister, in paragraphs 1 through 4.

ASK What did the father mean when he said, “Now this doesn’t belong to either of you.”? *(Since he was the one who bought the toy, Dad would be the one who decided who could play with it, and when.)*

READ paragraph 5 to find out what happens later in the day. **SAY** to the students, even though we use the words “my” and “mine” often, what is important for all of us to remember about the things we have? *(All that we have are gifts to us from God. We should be thankful for these gifts and use them wisely in ways that would honor and glorify Him.)*

ASK Why did God give us so many good things? *(Because He loves us!)*

SAY the rest of our lesson is about a miracle that Jesus performed using bread and fish.

DISTRIBUTE some of the bread and fish for each student to taste.

Now let's **READ** about a time when a young boy unselfishly gave all of his bread and fish to Jesus, and how Jesus performed a miracle with that food. **READ** paragraphs 6 through 10.

REVIEW:

1. What did the boy have that he was willing to give to Jesus? (*five loaves of bread and two fish*)
2. Where did the boy get his food from? (*from God. If students answer that he got his food from his mother at home, lead them to understand that EVERYTHING we have comes from God.*)
3. How did the boy wisely use his food to bring honor and glory to God? (*He unselfishly gave it to Jesus for Him to use as He wished.*)
4. What miracle did Jesus perform? (*He fed a crowd of over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.*)

5. What did Jesus do before He distributed the food? (*He gave thanks to His heavenly Father.*)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

What do you have that you are willing to give to Jesus?

Are you willing to wisely live your life in a way that brings honor and glory to Him?

CLOSE the lesson by asking the students one more time: "Whom does your toy belong to?" (*Most students now will answer that the toy belongs to God. It is a gift from Him that they are to wisely use to bring honor and glory to Him.*)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—James 1:17

Every good thing and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

CATECHISM—Have each student add the next segment of the Meaning to the First Article of The Apostles' Creed:

Add: *together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property*

Then the student may draw whatever kind of line he wishes to make an edge for the puzzle piece. Cut the piece off along that line.

Allow students time to place all their puzzle pieces together. At this point, the students should have pieces for the following portion of The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists;

that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property

Then read together all the segments of The Apostles' Creed that the students have.

Students should place the puzzle piece in their envelope.

Send the puzzle home with the students and encourage them to put their puzzle together once a day, read through it, and memorize the new section and any other sections they haven't committed to memory

See sample puzzle at the front of this Teacher Manual.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—What Does It Mean?

ANSWERS

Every good thing that we have comes from God,
and He never changes.

Activity 2—Plenty to Eat

ANSWERS

1. Perform miracles
2. Buy bread
3. Andrew
4. 5,000
5. 12

Activity 3—What's Missing

ANSWERS (See answers on website)

CLOSING THE LESSON**Closing Prayer**

Thank You, heavenly Father, that You are always good, and that everything You give is good. Thank You that You never change. We know that we are not good. We are often selfish and we forget to thank You. Forgive us. We ask You to live in our hearts and to use us to bring honor and glory to You. In Jesus's Name and for His sake we pray. Amen

Assignment

1. Have students make a list of ALL the things they need in one day.
2. Remind students to continue memorizing the Apostles' Creed and its meaning
3. Encourage students to take their Activity pages home and use it to tell someone what they learned today in class. If there wasn't sufficient time to complete the activity sheets in class, have students finish them at home and bring them to class next week.
4. Remind students to memorize James 1:17.
5. Challenge advanced students to also memorize Matthew 7:9-11.