

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



LOVE IN ACTION (2)

📖 Mark 6:30-44; James 2:17 More than 5,000 people fed

This session is to help children understand that faith in God should be expressed in serving others.

It can help them to think of

- different ways to serve others in their communities,
- how they can serve God today.

You can also refer back to early Salvation Army history, and also other stories of people in history who put their faith into action.

Each child will need:

- A little snack, ideally in a container like a lunchbox or a bag – see Start It section
- Pens/pencils and paper
- A *Faith in Action* fact sheet (optional) – see Pray It section

You will need:

- A photo of someone from your church or community who helps people who are hungry (optional) – see Pray It section

Start It

Start with a snack time. Ask the children about their snacks before they eat.

Ask:

- What did you bring?
- If you had to share your snack with this group, how would you do it?
- Now imagine if you had to share your snack with 5,000 people – how would you do that?

As the group eat their snacks, do a quiz about Jesus.

🗨 **Say:** In these sessions we have been discovering more about Jesus and the way that he loved others.

Ask: How much do you think you know about Jesus?

🗨 **Say:** Have a go at the quiz and see how many answers you can get out of 15.

Screenshare: *Bible trivia quiz on Jesus* by Bliss Quizzes (5 mins 2 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4nmtQm2VI8>

Ask: Why is it important to keep reading our Bible to discover more about Jesus?

Sing It

We have used this song in our sessions before, but this time there are actions to learn. The song talks about how we need to live like Jesus, loving each other and showing kindness to others.

Screenshare: 'Love one another' (Yancy/Body Worship) by Kidspring Worship (2 mins 39 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbVGRUB1qNk>

Tell It

🗣️ **Say:** Watch the clip to hear today's Bible story.

Video

Screenshare: *Twos: Jesus Feeds 5000 (Story)* by Crossroads Kids' Club (1 min 22 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I93LJLvp3jI>

🗣️ **Say:** Now that you've heard the story, we're going to read it from the Bible and focus on how Jesus showed his love to the people.

Screenshare:

'The apostles that Jesus had sent out to preach returned. They gathered around him and told him about all the things they had done and taught. Crowds of people were coming and going. Jesus and his followers did not even have time to eat. He said to them, "Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest."

— (Mark 6:30-31 ICB)

Discuss

- ➔ What had the apostles (the disciples of Jesus) been doing all day?
- ➔ How do you think they were feeling after a long, busy day?
- ➔ When Jesus spotted that the disciples were tired, what did he suggest they should do?

Screenshare:

'So they went in a boat alone to a place where there were no people. But many people saw them leave and recognised them. So people from all the towns ran to the place where Jesus was going. They got there before Jesus arrived. When he landed, he saw a great crowd waiting. Jesus felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he taught them many things.

It was now late in the day. Jesus' followers came to him and said, "No one lives in this place. And it is already very late. Send the people away. They need to go to the farms and towns around here to buy some food to eat."

— (Mark 6:32-36 ICB)

Discuss

- ➔ The disciples thought they were going to get some time to rest and be with Jesus, but what happened instead? How do you think they felt?
- ➔ What did Jesus and the disciples discover when they landed at the shore?
- ➔ How did the disciples react to all the people and how was it different from the way Jesus reacted?
- ➔ What animals did Jesus compare the people to? What do you think he meant?

Screenshare:

'But Jesus answered, "You give them food to eat."

They said to him, "We can't buy enough bread to feed all these people! We would all have to work a month to earn enough money to buy that much bread!"

Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have now? Go and see."

When they found out, they came to him and said, "We have five loaves and two fish." Then Jesus said to the followers, "Tell all the people to sit in groups on the green grass." So all the people sat in groups. They sat in groups of 50 or groups of 100. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He looked up to heaven and thanked God for the bread. He divided the bread and gave it to his followers for them to give to the people. Then he divided the two fish among them all. All the people ate and were satisfied. The followers filled 12 baskets with the pieces of bread and fish that were not eaten. There were about 5,000 men there who ate.'

— (Mark 6:39-44 ICB)

Discuss

- ➔ How do you think you would have reacted if Jesus asked you to feed 5,000 people? (Remember our little snacks at the beginning!)
- ➔ How much food did the disciples find and what did Jesus do with it?
- 💡 **Say:** Just like the disciples, Jesus was tired after a busy day. It would have been easy for him to send the people away. But instead, he decided to show God's love to them and care for them. Using God's amazing power, Jesus was able to feed the thousands of people who gathered to hear him teach.

Action It

- 💡 **Say:** In the story of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus shows the people the love of God by giving them something to eat. Jesus wants us to show his love to others through the way we treat them and the way we care for them.
- Ask:** If we say that we love Jesus, how should this show in the way that we treat other people?
- 💡 **Say:** Jesus' brother James wrote these words about how our actions should match what we believe.

Screenshare:

'Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup – where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?'

— (James 2:17 MSG)

Ask: How would you sum up what James was trying to say?

Video

Watch the clip about how The Salvation Army started.

Screenshare: *Celebrating Founders' Day - the story of how The Salvation Army began* by The Salvation Army Australia (2 mins 10 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lpyA1_e76E

Ask: How did William and Catherine Booth show God's love in action to the people they met?

Ask: What one thing could you do this week to show the love of Jesus to those around you?

Pray It

Ask: Who are the people in your church or community who support people in need? Perhaps they run a food bank or look after a Salvation Army charity shop.

If the children don't know about people in their church or local community who support people who are hungry, you could show them a picture and talk about what the person does.

Spend time as a group praying for the person and the people they support.

Activity

Create a thank-you card or write a letter to the person, thanking them for all they do and letting them know that you prayed for them.

You may wish to give the children the *Faith in Action* fact sheet to take home.

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2021-11/Faith%20In%20Action%20-%20Primary%20Pupils%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.