

# Growing Together

Inspired by the Christian Faith

## DID JESUS HAVE... FUN?



### Read together

#### A retelling of John 6

Now here's a problem! I have come a long way to hear Jesus speak and I am not the only one, there are thousands of people here.

Mum only let me come because my aunt and uncle have promised to keep an eye on me. Before I left, she made sure I had food to bring – my mum is all about food! Well that and washing and sweeping up and lessons and ...well you know mums.

So here I am with my five barley loaves and two dried fish. It's not very fancy, but it's enough for me. I expect you want to know what my problem is exactly.

Jesus stopped speaking a little while ago and now he has sent his friends into the crowd to look for some food.

Everyone here is really hungry. You would think there was a thunder storm from the sound of all the grumbling stomachs.

What do you think I should do? Should I pretend I haven't got any lunch? Shall I just eat it? It's not my fault others haven't brought any. Shall I share it with my aunt and uncle? Shall I see who looks most hungry and share it with them? Shall I give it to Jesus' friends?

What would you do? If you know the whole story from the Bible you will remember that I did give my lunch to Jesus – and he had some fun with it.

He did what he always did – he thanked God first and then he shared it... and he went on and on and on sharing it! I am sure I ended up eating more than my mum had packed for me. It was the most amazing picnic ever.



## Did you know



In medieval times people didn't have holidays like we do today. However, they did have special celebration days called 'holy-days'. They were usually Christian festivals like Christmas, Easter or the days when special saints like St George or Jesus' friend St Peter were remembered. People would gather around the churches in their towns and villages for a fair. They could buy and sell things, try tasty food, enter competitions, play games, listen to music and even dance. Gradually these Holy days became called 'holidays'.



## Create & make



Can you make a 'Bible foods' picnic? For example: dates, pomegranates, figs, melon, apples, and grapes, olives, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, and beans, pitta bread, wraps or other flat breads, honey, garlic, milk, butter, goats' cheese, various oils, herbs, and spices. Lots of these foods can be found in Bible.

## Family Fun



Take turns in describing your favourite memory of a picnic. What made it so special? Plan some picnics for the summer holidays. Even having an indoor picnic on the floor can be fun if it's raining.

## Courageous Advocacy



Bravely making the world better

Invite a neighbour to picnic with you, or donate some of your favourite picnic foods to your local food bank.

## Prayer space ideas



Collect mementos of summers together, like shells, pebbles or feathers. Use these treasures to create a reflection space by decorating an area of the garden or the top of a plant pot.

Sometimes, when fun seems far away, you may wish to paint the shells and pebbles with water and as the marks disappear remember how God uses our gifts and forgives our mistakes.

## Idea for Pre-schoolers



Using a pot of bubbles, talk about how hundreds of bubbles can come from such a tiny pot, reminding us of Jesus feeding 5,000 people from a very small lunch. You could also collect your teddies and have a teddy bears' picnic with them.

