

FEEDING OF THE 5,000 & TRANSFIGURATION

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



FEEDING OF THE 5,000

Orthodox Children’s Bible Reader: pages 210 - 211

Teaching Options:

- Read or summarize the story from the Orthodox Children’s Bible Reader
- Bring out the felt bread, fish, and baskets from the classroom cupboard and have the kids silently act out the story while the teacher reads or tells the story

1

GOALS

How does the Feeding of the 5,000 apply to us today? Continued study of the major feasts.

2

AT CHURCH

Service of Artoklasia
Liturgy on the feast day of the Transfiguration

3

AT HOME

We pray before we eat.
We have icons of the feast days in our homes.



Class routine:
Move my photo from “home” to “church”



Class routine:
Light a candle - respectfully prayerfully without playing



Class routine:
Venerate our icon



Sing “Lord have mercy” in English, Greek, Arabic, Romanian

to them. 1. Assign one child to be Jesus. (Who will put their hands together and pray when you read that Jesus blessed the food.) 2. Assign one child to be a disciple who will silently gather the class (crowd) into a group to receive food. 3. Assign one child to be a disciple who will hold a basket of felt bread and fish. (This child will pass out some bread and fish to the rest of the class.) 4. Instruct the class (crowd) to be amazed when the bread and fish miraculously multiplied and they had more than enough to eat.

- Select felt Bible characters that apply to the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 and have them ready for after the story. As a review, ask for volunteers to use the felt characters to retell the Bible story to you.

We have a special church service called artoklasia. We have these special prayers to thank God for all the blessings in our lives and also to remind us about Jesus' miracle when He fed over 5,000 people. When we bring a special bread, called artos, to church, we always bring 5 loaves to our priest because Jesus fed thousands of people with only 5 loaves of bread (and 2 fish).



TRANSFIGURATION

Orthodox Children's Bible Reader:
pages 218 - 219

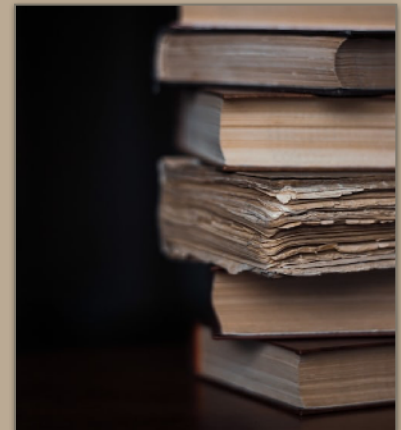
Teaching Options:

- Read or tell the story of Jesus' Transfiguration
- Have the kids repeat after you, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."
- Show the icon and see how much the kids remember and then tell the story - or - tell the story and then have the kids narrate the story back to you using the icon as a visual prompt.

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 182-208

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 94-107



- Pull out the icons of the major feast days we have covered in past lessons: Annunciation, Nativity of Christ, Presentation of Christ into the Temple, Theophany, and Transfiguration from the Major Feast Days File Folder Activity. Ask the kids to tell you what is happening in each of these icons. (Age appropriate answers are - “The angel is telling Mary she is going to have a baby;” “Jesus’ birthday;” “Mary brought Jesus to the Temple;” “Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist;” “Jesus was transformed and was really bright!”)
- You can guide them as they put the icons in chronological order on the table. “What happened first? Did Archangel Gabriel tell Mary she was going to have a baby or did Mary give birth to Jesus?” Then you can guide them again, “What happened next? Was Jesus born in Bethlehem or did Jesus’ mom bring Him to the Temple to be blessed?” Do not give them the answers. Instead, guide them on their current level. With time, they will learn to do more on their own. We are establishing a foundation of knowledge and understanding. We are helping them to think through the activity without directly giving them the answer.

FEEDING OF THE 5,000 & TRANSFIGURATION

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

Almost at the end of the liturgical year, in August, we have the feast of Christ's Transfiguration. This is another of the fundamental commemorations. Unfortunately, since it usually falls on a weekday, not many people celebrate it. Yet for the comprehension of the Orthodox faith it has a unique importance. Christ took His disciples and went up on the mount, and there His face appeared shining. His vestments became white as snow, and one of the disciples said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." This was the fulfillment of all human desires, the moment of supreme happiness. For nothing in this world can satisfy us save God, His glory, His light, His truth, His kingdom. Again, Christianity is joy; such is the meaning of Transfiguration. He has given us the power of going with Him to Mount Tabor, and of tasting there of that which he has prepared for us.

What is the Church? The Church is the reflection in this world of the light seen by the disciples of Mount

*Tabor. Ask our old people. They would never understand what it means that they **must** go to church, for to go to church is joy for them, and when they cannot go to church, they are unhappy. While we ask "How much?" And "How long?" They would give everything they have for the opportunity to be in church. The church for them is not a place where we fulfill our religious obligations, but the place where we find our real **home**, where joy and light are given to us. Thus in the liturgy of the year, all the dimensions of Christianity - the individual, social, and the cosmical - are revealed and given to us. Our Christian life is revealed as climbing up that mountain, following Christ. Sometimes it is very hot; sometimes very cold. Sometimes we become tired of the effort, and put it aside, and seem to forget all about it. Yet if there is meaning in Christian life, it lies precisely in always following Christ to Mount Tabor, so that at the end we can say, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.'*

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann
Liturgy and Life: Christian Development Through Liturgical Experience

HOME ACTIVITY #13

YouTube: Mount Tavor (Tabor) Israel Video Tour https://youtu.be/AD0CMxT_TJk

YouTube: Jezreel Valley, Mount Tabor, Israel (drone footage) <https://youtu.be/lj-XmuOZu3U>

YouTube: Transfiguration Monastery, Mount Tabor https://youtu.be/3_acLyRPJ78



