



I Scream, You Scream

We all scream for ice cream!

THEME: Summer Foods

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Feeds the 5,000 (*Luke 9:11-17*)

MATERIALS NEEDED

OPENING GAME

- Slices of watermelon, two per person
- A line on the ground (chalk or masking tape work well to make a line)
- 16-ounce plastic cups, one per family

GAMES

- Ice pops, one per person

CRAFT: ICE CREAM COOKIES

- Vanilla creme wafers, three per person
- Plastic knives, one per person
- Paper plates, one per person
- [Fruit slice wedges](#), three (different colors) per person
- Red gel frosting, one small tube per family
- Small plastic cups, two per family
- Sprinkles, about two tablespoons per family
- White candy melts, one 12-ounce bag for every three families
- A glass bowl or measuring cup for melting the candy melts
- A microwave to melt the white chocolate candy melts
- A spoon to portion the melted chocolate into small cups
- Tables for the families to sit at (covered with newspaper or plastic)



90-MINUTE SESSION OUTLINE

- [Introduction and Opening Game](#) (10 minutes)
- [Craft Activity](#) (30 minutes)
- [Games](#) (20 minutes)
- [Devotional Thought](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Discussion](#) (15 minutes)
- [Closing Prayer and Dismissal](#) (5 minutes)

Introduction and Opening Game

(10 MINUTES)

Welcome to family fun night! We are so glad you're here. Our goals are to help your family have fun together and to learn about God's love and his word.

Tonight, our theme is "I Scream, You Scream!" Maybe you've heard the old rhyme that goes like this, "I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!" Ice cream is a great summer food, isn't it? Why don't you turn to someone near you now and share what your favorite flavor of ice cream is.

Give the group a few seconds to share with each other.

What are some other foods people eat in summer?

Take ideas from the group. They are likely to suggest things like watermelon, corn, and barbecue.

Back in Jesus' time, people where he lived didn't eat ice cream or corn. They ate fish and bread. Tonight we are going to learn about a time when Jesus fed a whole crowd of people with just five loaves of bread and two small fish.

Read Luke 9:11-17.

That's an amazing story, and we'll have a chance to come back to it later, but right now let's get things rolling with a little family competition with a favorite summer food.

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Family Game: Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest

Object: To spit as many seeds as possible into your family's cup.

Setup: Give each person a slice of watermelon. Line the participants up behind a line drawn on the ground, and place a plastic cup about five feet away from each family on the other side of the line.

Instructions: On your GO signal, each person will start eating their watermelon slice and spitting the seeds toward the cup. After everyone has finished their watermelon, each family will count how many seeds landed in their cup. The family with the most seeds is the winner! Play more rounds as time and materials permit.

Craft Activity

(30 MINUTES)

Ice Cream Cookies



Preparation:

- This craft uses melted white chocolate. You will need easy access to a microwave oven. Melt the white chocolate candy melts according to the package instructions.
- Carefully, spoon several tablespoons of the melted chocolate into a small plastic cup, and distribute the cups one per family.
- Pour about two tablespoons of sprinkles into a second cup, and distribute these cups one per family as well.

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- Give each person three vanilla creme wafers and three fruit slice wedges on a paper plate with a plastic knife.

Instructions:

1. Cut the vanilla wafers into triangles to look like an ice cream cone.
2. Dip the rounded end of the fruit wedge into the melted chocolate, then dip it in the sprinkles.
3. Dip the top of the cone (wafer) into the chocolate in order to “glue” the fruit wedge to the cone.
4. Add a large drop of red gel frosting for the cherry on top of the cones.
5. Eat and enjoy!



Games

(20 MINUTES)

I'm Melting!

Object: To be the family to melt all your ice pops

Setup:

- Play this in a grassy area that can absorb melting juice
- Give each participant a wrapped ice pop on a stick. (Note: For a less sticky option, you can freeze sticks in ice cubes.)

Instructions: On your GO signal, each person will unwrap their ice pop and attempt to melt it off completely by blowing hot breath on it. The family that melts all their pops first wins.

Summer Salad

Object: To avoid being the person in the middle of the circle

Setup: Place chairs in a circle, one chair for each participant.

Instructions: Each participant will choose one of the following ingredients in a fresh summer salad: lettuce, tomatoes, onions, or cucumbers. To verify that each person has identified with a vegetable (Yes, we know tomatoes are actually a fruit!) say the name of an ingredient, and ask those who have chosen that one to raise their hands. For example, "All the tomatoes, raise your hands. Now, let's see all the cucumbers. Hands up."

Once everyone has identified with an ingredient in the salad, remove one chair from the circle, and choose one person to start in the middle of the circle. This person is "IT."

IT will say the name of an ingredient, and everyone who has chosen that ingredient must stand up and move to an open chair (i.e., trade places with someone else). The person who does not find a new chair is the new IT. In addition to the four ingredients, IT may say, "Summer salad!" at which point all participants need to find a new seat. A final rule is that the new chair may not be immediately to the player's left or right.



Devotional Thought

(10 MINUTES)

There is nothing like a juicy slice of watermelon or an ice cream sundae on a hot summer day. Or how about coming home after a long day outside to enjoy a great barbecue? In our Bible story today, a whole crowd of people had been outside all day. They were listening to Jesus, but as dinner time approached, they were hungry. The trouble was they were in a remote place with no food nearby. What would they eat?

When you are super hungry, what's your favorite snack? Turn and tell someone about your favorite snack. Allow each family to talk amongst themselves.

Well, let's take a look in the Bible and see what Jesus did to feed this crowd of hungry people. I'm going to need some volunteers to help tell the story. I need:

- 12 disciples
- Jesus
- A crowd of people

We are going to make a tableau. What's a tableau, you ask? The dictionary says it's a group of models or motionless figures representing a scene from a story or from history. So, here's what we are going to do. We are going to use our eyelids as curtains on a stage. When I say, "Curtains down," you will close your eyes and keep them closed. When I say, "Curtains up," you will open your eyes to see the scene our actors have created.

Read the Scripture and the instructions (curtains up, curtains down). Every time the curtains are down, your actors will move to pose themselves for the next scene. When you say, "curtains up," they must remain frozen.

Curtains down.

... The crowds found out where [Jesus] was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God,

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

and he healed those who were sick.

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Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" For there were about 5,000 men there.

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

Jesus replied, "Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each." So the people all sat down.

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people.

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene. **Curtains down.**

They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers! (Luke 9:11-17, NLT).

Curtains up. Pause for about 10-15 seconds to see the scene.

Wow! How amazing is that? When there was almost no food, Jesus was able to multiply it to feed over 5,000 people! Now, I want to ask you:

What are some things you notice about Jesus in this story?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

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What are some things you notice about the disciples in this story?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

Jesus is powerful—very powerful. Jesus is the Son of God. We know this because, among other reasons, here and in other parts of the Bible he shows he has control over nature. Who could make five loaves of bread and two fish multiply to fill 5,000 bellies except for God?

I also noticed a few things in this story:

- 1. Jesus cares for people. He saw that the people were hungry, and instead of just sending them home hungry, he gave them food.**
- 2. Jesus' followers were skeptical, but they offered him what they had: the two fish and five loaves of bread. Even if we feel like we don't have much to offer, when we let Jesus use what we do have, he can do amazing things.**
- 3. Even though it was Jesus who did the miracle, his followers were part of it. When we follow Jesus, he lets us participate in what he is doing in the world. He can use us to do some big things if we let him.**

Here's what I'd like us to remember from this story. Jesus is the Son of God. He can do things that only God can do because he has all power. Jesus also loves and cares for people, and when we offer him what we have, he will let us be part of what he's doing.

Let's pray. Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are God. You have all power and authority, and you love us and care for us. We may not have much to offer, but we give you what we have. Would you please use us to do your work in this world? Amen.



Family Discussion

(15 MINUTES)

Distribute the family discussion guide and give the families time to discuss the questions there together.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

(5 MINUTES)

Thank everyone for coming. Make any announcements about future family fun nights or other events at your church. Let the families know you love them and want to serve them. If anyone needs prayer, offer to pray for them.

Close the evening in prayer.



FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

What is your favorite summer food? How do you feel when you get really, really hungry?

Read the story together again, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick. Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" For there were about 5,000 men there.

Jesus replied, "Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each." So the people all sat down. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers! (Luke 9:11-17, NLT).

To Discuss

- Retell the story in your own words.
- What are the three things you found most interesting about this story?
- Why do you think Jesus told his disciples (friends) that they should feed the crowd?
- How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them to give the people food?
- Jesus gave thanks to God before he passed out the food. What are some things you are thankful for?
- What does this miracle teach us about Jesus?
- God can do things that seem impossible to us! What is something in your life that you need God's help with?
- God used the disciples to do his work. How can you do God's work?