

# Five Loaves ~ 2 Fishes CD

the interactive story of the **Feeding of the 5000** at Bethsaida



## OUTLINE AND LESSON GUIDE

From Sunday Software for the Supporting Members of [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org)

### First Things to Know:

- Five Loaves ~ 2 Fishes CD puts your students in the role of the small boy who offered his bread and fish to help Jesus reveal who he truly was. It takes about 25 minutes to play.
- The game is your primary Bible study. It has the entire story presented in an **Open, Dig, Reflect** lesson paradigm. Follow-up study ideas are suggested below.
- The meaning of the story might not be what you think! It's **not** primarily a story about "*sharing what you have*". Read my feisty Bible Background below for **what this story is REALLY about**.
- We have combined all four Gospel versions in the game: **Matthew** 14:13-21; **Mark** 6:30-44; **Luke** 9:10-17; **John** 6:1-15 (which includes the story of the small boy), --each of which has slightly different details. See "the differences" in the Bible Background below. As part of your lesson plan with older children, I recommend doing a comparison of the versions after you have used the software.
- Your students play the part of the small boy. We have added his "Uncle Reuben" to give voice to the people in the crowd, and emphasize the importance of making time to listen to Jesus. In a sense: Reuben is your kids.
- **Steer** by using your arrow keys. **Jump** by pressing the Home Key. Pressing the Shift key will accelerate walking as you also press a forward arrow. You can also use your **mouse to look down/up** and steer left right while moving forward.
- **Press X** to get in/out of the boat. Click on the fish/bread to pick them up. Right clicking your mouse turns the cursor into an arrow for selecting, but also 'locks' the player point of view from looking up/down. Locking the player point of view may help younger children navigate.



**In your lesson plan.... after some introductory remarks, *play the game FIRST***, then follow up with further study/discussion, based in part on the discussion material presented in the final quiz questions, the discussion panel at the end, and what the music video is trying to say. **SEE THE DISCUSSION PANEL GRAPHIC BELOW.**

**With older students**, after using the software, dive into the Discussion Panel's suggested questions and Bible verse look-up. You may also have them compare the four Gospel versions (notes below). Go in as much depth as you choose or have time for. One important reason to compare the stories is so that students are aware that the **NEXT TIME** they hear or read the story that it may sound different to them. If you have more than one week on the story, play it twice, using a different final reflection/discussion options each week.

**Grades K-2 will enjoy the CD, but need LOTS of help steering.** You can use the mouse to nudge-steer them left/right as they move the arrow keys. You will need to give them some instructions about what to do next, as they do not always hear the characters in the game giving the directions (they get enthralled). They may need help climbing up the bales to the storeroom, and will need someone to read the possible answers to questions. We've tuned the questions to be a tad tricky (to get kids to think), so younger kids will need some help.

## Game Outline

### In the game students will:

1. Meet and hear from Peter on his boat and then speak to him on the dock at Bethsaida.
2. Go into Bethsaida and convince their "Uncle" about taking time to go hear Jesus.
3. Collect the 5 loaves and 2 fish and walk down the beach to hear Jesus.
4. Hear Jesus preach, and get to offer him the bread and fish.
5. Collect up the 12 baskets and hear again from Jesus.
6. Speak with their Uncle and go fishing on the Sea of Galilee.
7. Answer the quiz questions out on the Sea, and choose a discussion panel for further study .
8. Watch a reflection music video featuring the song "5 Loaves, 2 Fishes".

**The Final Quiz Questions** include additional discussion questions (listed below) which you may choose to follow up on.

An optional Discussion Panel can be accessed at the end of the game. A copy is seen below in this guide.

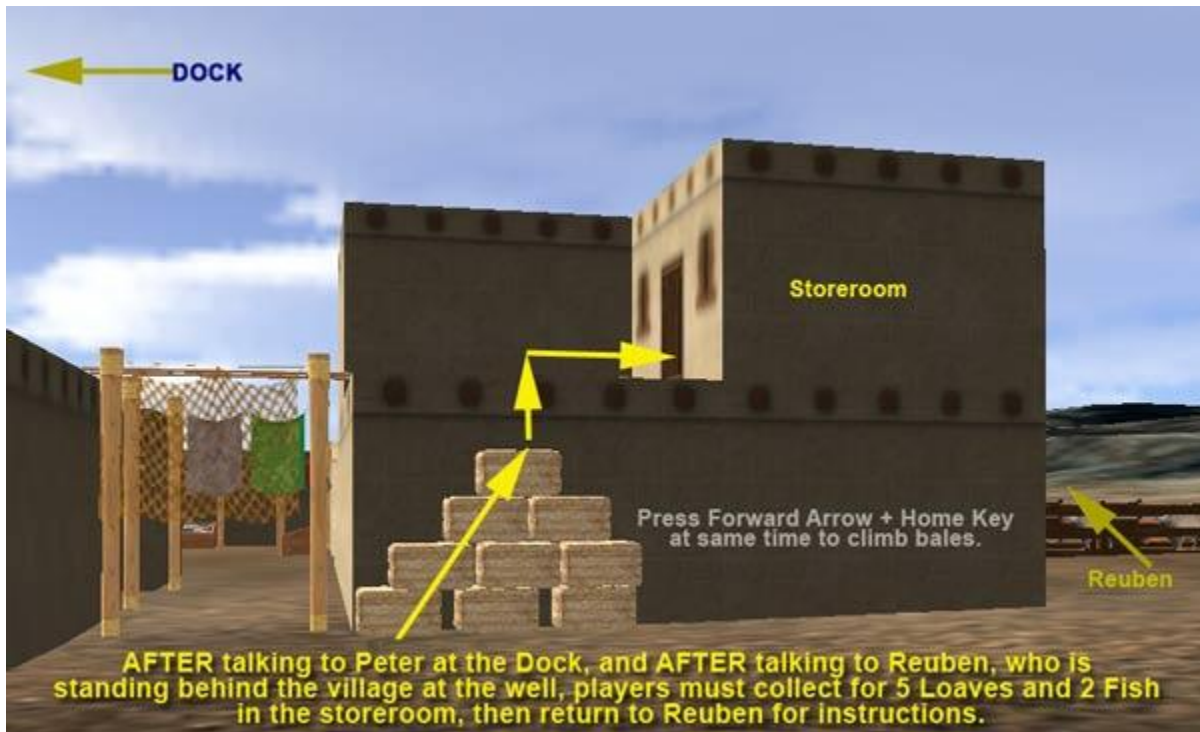
**The Music Reflection Video at the end of the game** can be viewed outside of the game if you choose, just look for the ".mov" file in the game's installed "5000" folder on your harddrive.

## Game Play Tips and "Cheats" for the Teachers

Like most interactive games, things must happen in the right sequence. For example, you can't go hear Jesus until you get the Uncle to come with you. Listen carefully to the narrations for instructions about "what to do next".

1. There are only two villages on the Sea, Capernaum and Bethsaida. You want to go to Bethsaida which is the "village on the right" as you approach the western shore.
2. Press X to get off/on the boat where you see the X on the dock.
3. When you get off the boat, talk to Peter first on the dock.
4. Uncle Reuben is standing by a well behind the village. You must answer all three of his questions correctly to get him to agree to go with you.
5. There are two ways to get up to the store room to find the fish and loaves: 1) Jump up the bales on the outside wall (press Home key to jump while pressing forward key). 2) Walk like a tightrope walker along the ropes between and alongside the buildings! (use your mouse to move your eyes down to watch the rope. It's tricky but fun.)
6. In the storeroom, click on the 2 fish and 5 loaves to carry them, then return to Uncle Reuben (as he suggested). Then start walking to the shore to hear Jesus.
7. As you approach the shore, the game will take over and present dialogs. (there is a long audio pause when you first see the boat, then you'll hear Jesus talking) Then the player will have the opportunity to hear Jesus, give bread and collect baskets.
8. After the miracle, approach Uncle Reuben for final words and get in the boat to "go fishing" (find the quiz in the Sea).
9. After answering the quiz questions, the answers have an extra discussion question you can have the students write down an answer to, or discuss with you afterwards.
10. View the music reflection video at the end menu.
11. **Tell the students NOT to exit the game at the end until you have instructed them to do so.** This will keep the menu visible and allow you to have them RETAKE THE QUIZ and see the discussion questions with you, and/or VIEW the music video with you or with the class for more discussion.

## How to find the bread and fish in the village:



## The Song: "Five Loaves, Two Fishes"

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Five loaves, two fishes, O Lord don't you know what my wish-is, to be with you, and serve you all my life. (2X) I was small, but you reached out to me.  
I was weak but you gave me strength to see  
Though a poor boy's lunch was all I had to spare  
When you bless, there's always more to be shared

Five loaves, two fishes, O Lord don't you know what my wish-is, (just) to be with you, and serve you all my life. (2x) Nothing is impossible for God,  
even when it seems --against the odds.  
In a world that hungers for bread and word and love  
Jesus mul-ti-plies the gift from above.

(with) Five loaves, two fishes, O Lord don't you know what my wish-is, just to be with you, and serve you all my life. (2x)  
(Bridge) It's not enough to care - when you see the need. There's always a job to do - when you believe!  
(with) Five loaves, two fishes, O Lord don't you know what my wish-is, just to be with you, and serve you all my life. (2x)

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## About Uncle Reuben...

We created the character of Reuben to provide some content and direction to your students. He is meant to represent your kids, and the change we hope will come over them. Remind your kids that "Uncle Reuben" is not part of the Bible's story. After playing the game, ask the kids about Reuben's attitude, and how & why he changed. Here are the 3 questions he asks and your students must correctly answer in order for him to divulge the location of the fish and bread:



1. I'm glad you made it here to Beth-saida. Your parents told me that you wanted to go hear Jesus. But why do you really want to go hear him? Correct answer: A) Because Jesus is a great teacher and may be the Messiah!

2. I'm kind of busy right now. Can't you see I'm getting water for the bakery? Do you really expect me to drop everything to go listen to a dangerous preacher? Correct answer: B) Yes, because the kind of bread Jesus gives is more important than what we put in our stomach.

3. Some of the people who I know who are going to hear Jesus are sinners and hypocrites! I'm not so bad, why should I go and be seen with them? Correct answer: B) Everyone is a sinner, even you Uncle, and the Messiah came to forgive.

## Tech Notes:

If you get "stuck" in part of the 3d landscape, wiggle and jump to get away.

Pay attention to docking in the correct dock and don't forget to see Peter before going into the village.

Ignore the RED ARROW which seems to point the way. It is only a general direction of where you need to go next and you still need to get around things, walls, buildings, etc.

If your graphics seem "fat" or stretched a bit wide, this is because your screen resolution is set for wide- aspect viewing. Open up your graphic display properties in your Windows Control panel's "Display" options and set your graphic properties to "fixed aspect". This will control your computer's display proportions during the game.

For additional Tech Support, look up the program at [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com)

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

Please read the "Jesus Feeds the 5000" Bible Background written for the Rotation.org Writing Team's "5000" Lesson Set at <https://www.rotation.org/forum/writing-team-lesson-set-jesus-feeds-the-5000>

### ***What is this story REALLY about?***

Traditionally, Sunday School has compressed this story into a "story about sharing what you have", and "Jesus will multiply our gifts". Those ideas are certainly good ones to teach and IN the story by God's Spirit. The music video song highlights those sentiments, but sneakily also points to the more likely "PRIMARY" meaning of this miracle story, which is:

#### **JESUS WANTS US TO KNOW WHO HE IS AND BELIEVE IN HIM.**

That's the role of miracles in Jesus stories: they are signs (messages) that reveal to those who see them just who Jesus really is.

He had spent all day teaching. They would not have starved had they been sent home. Jesus saw an opportunity to teach them the most important lesson: who HE was. The miracle reveals his identity and authority to those ready to see. HE is The One. HE is the bread they need.

At the end of the game, there's a Discussion Panel you can view. It has several suggested scripture readings which get at this "Jesus=bread" and feast image.

The miracle announces that Jesus was the Messiah, the One who had the Authority. He wasn't merely a "good teacher" with a lesson about sharing. This is typical of Jesus and his other miracles as well. They ANNOUNCE, POINT TO, REVEAL his identity to people who weren't expecting God and had lost hope in the Messiah.

**The miracle's lesson is like Sunday School too.** *Coming and hearing is not enough.* Jesus wants to us KNOW who he is, and to believe. Jesus is here to make disciples, not just be helpful.

### **The Context of the Miracle within the Gospels**

In Matthew, Mark and Luke, this story follows on the death of John the Baptist, which further reinforces the point that this miracle is Jesus' calling card: "I am indeed The One, The Messiah whom John foretold". In John, the miracle comes after a long section on Jesus addressing his authority. Thus, the miracle is about WHO is Jesus, and not primarily about 'sharing'.

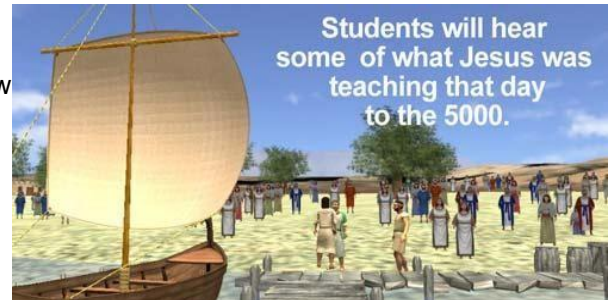
That said, Gospel stories can have several meanings, and insights do continue to evolve from them by the power of the Spirit, even though there was an original context and intent. My goal in this Bible Background is not to throw out the "small boy" and "sharing/multiply the gifts" ...but to **rebalance it**, -- to keep the story from being taught as a moral platitude about "sharing". Yes, Jesus wants us to share, but the question is WHY? The answer is not "because it's a good idea", but rather, *we share because we believe in him*. Reuben's character in the game REINFORCES this teaching. He is the student who doesn't really want to be there. He's the kid with excuses.

### Is the bread in this story "something about Communion"?

The early Christians saw this connection. Jesus referred to himself as "bread" in several scriptures, and talked about feasting. In that sense, this miracle like many others fits into his Kingdom of God themes and images. So this is another reason NOT to turn this miracle into a "simple parable about sharing our gifts", because it's more a parable about Jesus sharing HIS gift.

### Is this a story about "people sharing their gifts"?

If so, **it's a paltry example!** 5000 people and all that was shared was 5 loaves and 2 fish??? That part of the story actually serves to point out how MUCH we need Jesus. We simply don't have enough. If Jesus had wanted to make it a story about sharing, he probably would have upbraided the crowd or the disciples, but he doesn't. In fact, the fact that 5000 people only had 5 loaves is a great point about US vs JESUS. Jesus had compassion on the crowd, but probably not because they were hungry, but because he knew what they REALLY needed: belief.



**Is this a story about "a small boy like our children giving his all to Jesus" ?** Old-timey preachers and traditional lessons love that image, so do I ! ...and it is sweet. But only John includes the small boy, the other Gospels do not, so certainly it is not the primary focus, and even John doesn't make much of the small boy other than to say the gift was not enough. But Jesus is enough.

**A better approach to the small boy:** Rather than focusing on his bread and fish, let's focus on the FACT that THE SMALL BOY WAS THERE LISTENING TO JESUS! Like our children today, the small boy could have stayed home, or gone out to play with his friends. But he choose to be there and listen to Jesus.

If you're going to EXTOL THE VIRTUES OF THE BOY in the story, [extol his desire to COME hear Jesus](#). The music video speaks to this. See the lyrics below.

### Life Application for our Kids:

This miracle tells us that Jesus wants us to learn from him, discover him, AND believe in who he is. One of the ways that happens is when we **put ourselves in a position and place to learn from Jesus, so that we can also get to KNOW Jesus. in a way deeper than words.** This is the point Reuben learns in the game. This is the point of the miracle – to open our eyes and hearts.

**At the end of the day by the shore, or the end of the morning at church, after you have been with Jesus, what do you need to do next?**

Now you know the meaning of the lyrics in the song: *"5 Loaves, 2 Fishes, O Lord don't you know what my WISH IS, -just to be with you, and serve you all my life."* Like the boy that day, we want our kids to walk away believing Jesus more than just a teacher, ...that he is their Savior, and that with Jesus, *anything* is possible, ...**even their FAITH is possible.**



The discussion panel and quiz at the end of the game delve into these questions. Below is a copy of that final discussion panel.

**Here is the text of the optional Discussion Panel at the end of the game:**

**Is this a story about feeding hungry people?**

The scripture says they were hungry after a long day, and “Jesus had compassion on them”. But the people that day were not all poor, and would not have starved if Jesus had sent them away hungry. Jesus wanted to help them AND make a point about WHO they had just spent the day with!

- What do you think they told their friends and family when they got home?
- Did they just talk about a miraculous free meal?
- What do you think they told others about Jesus?
- Create a skit about coming home that evening and waking your family to tell them what had happened, why you think Jesus is the hoped for Messiah, and what you were going to do next.



**Little Gift + Jesus = Anything is possible!**

Read Matthew 17:20 and discuss how it might fit with the story of Five Loaves, 2 Fishes.

**“Just to be with you and serve you all my life”**

Come up with specific examples of how YOU can: ~ learn more about Jesus and his teachings ~ bring others to learn from Jesus ~ help others believe in Jesus and worship him ~ care for others as Jesus cared

**For Further Study:**

Read Matthew 5:6 ...what Jesus really wants us to fill us up with.

Read John 6:51 ...the kind of bread Jesus wants to give us.

Read Revelation 7:11-17 ...the vision of those who no longer hunger.