



Stories and Scripture

Stone Soup

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A parish-based opportunity to engage pre-school children and their families

**Sponsored by the Engaging Young Families
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Stone Soup

The Feeding of the 5000

John 6:1-14

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), **2** and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. **3** Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. **4** The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" **6** He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, **9** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). **11** Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." **13** So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." **15** Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Greet families as they arrive.

Opening Prayer: God will bless you in everything you do. Deuteronomy 10:15

Give an overview of the book.

This story is about making soup with a very special ingredient. Let's listen to the story and see if you can name the special ingredient.

Read the story.

Discuss: What was the special ingredient.

The children will say the stone, but ask what would the soup taste like if you just boiled a stone. (Nothing!)

The secret ingredient is sharing what we have!!

- Why do you think the villagers initially refuse to offer food?
- Why do the villagers eventually give food to the travelers?
- Do you think the travelers intended to trick the village people? Explain.
- As the travelers leave the town, can you predict where they might be going?
- Do you think the travelers will have the opportunity to use their recipe again?

The expressions and mannerisms of the villagers change throughout the book. The first time we see them, they appear angry, cautious and untrustworthy. Follow their journey and discuss how their expressions change as the plot unfolds. Select a picture and ask students to describe the feelings of the villagers. Use synonyms and antonyms to compare their changing looks.

Drawing Conclusions:

- Which villager had the most important role in the story? Explain.
- What lesson(s) do you think the villagers learned?

In what ways do you think the villagers will continue to share?

Discuss with students the importance of sharing. ○ What is sharing?

- What can you do to remember the importance of sharing?
 - Think of a time when someone did not share with you or a time when you did not want to share. What happened and how did it make you feel? What are some reasons that other people might not want to share?
 - How are sharing and cooperation similar? Does sharing require cooperation?
- Instruct students to go to their tables and make their own stone soup using ingredients that were found in the book.
 - Students will receive a worksheet containing a variety of vegetables. Students will need to choose six of their favorite vegetables, color them, and cut them out.
 - Encourage students to draw vegetables not included on their worksheet.
 - Stones will be on the table for children to include in their soup. After coloring and cutting, students will glue their vegetables and stone to a big, black pot.

MAKING SOUP GAME –

- Set out a large pot in the middle of the floor.
- Have your children stand around the pot in a circle.
- Have your children rotate around the pot and pretend to toss vegetables into

the pot as you sing this song.
Here we go 'round the big soup pot,
The big soup pot, the big soup pot.
Here we go 'round the big soup pot,
Making stone soup.
First we put in a nice clean stone,
Nice clean stone, nice clean stone.
First we put in a nice clean stone,
To make our vegetable soup.
Next, we put in some big red tomatoes,
Etc.

- Continue with additional verses and additional vegetables.
- At the end, have children sit down and pretend to eat their "Stone Soup".

Snack - vegetables and dip

Discussion: Tying story book to scripture.

This story reminds me of a story from the Bible, The Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-14). Jesus is teaching a very large group of people and it is time for lunch. Jesus is concerned that the people didn't bring enough food with them to eat. So Jesus asks his disciples to see if anyone in the group has any food. One young boy has 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. The disciples said there was not enough food for everyone and they were concerned. Jesus took the food and thanked God for the food and then gave food to all 5000 people that were there and there was still some left over.

Discussion:

How do you think the townspeople and the apostles are alike in these stories?
How is the plan that the visitors had different than Jesus' plan?

How was the result of the stories the same? How are they different?

Did the boy have enough to feed everyone? What happened when he gave what he had to Jesus?

Which story was a miracle? Who created the miracle?

Is there any way you could be more generous? Sharing what you have with others, unlike the townspeople before they made the stone soup?

Closing Prayer: God will bless you in everything you do. Deuteronomy 10:15