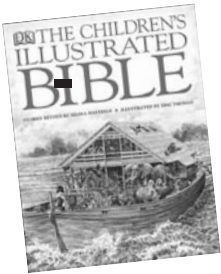


# Ordinary Time, Proper 12



*The Children's Illustrated Bible*

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Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw what he was doing for the sick.

Jesus went up the mountain and sat there with his disciples. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus asked Philip, "Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?" Philip answered, "Lord, even six months' wages would not buy enough bread for them." But Andrew said, "A child here is willing to share five barley loaves and two fish. But what is that among so many people?" Then Jesus took the loaves and fish, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to everyone there, as much as they wanted. When they were full, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftovers, so that nothing may be lost."

—*John 6:1–12 adapted*

## Never Without

Read the story of the loaves and fishes from John 6:1-12 and the *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Discuss the child's willingness to share even though it wasn't that much. Have kids help dramatize the story by choosing the parts of Jesus, Philip, Andrew, and a small child with the five loaves and two fishes (note this doesn't say "boy"). The rest may be the people in the crowd. A narrator reads John 6:1-12 as the kids act out each verse. Perhaps Philip and Andrew could ask the crowd if anyone has anything to eat, collecting any candy or gum the students might have. Discuss: What do you think Philip and Andrew thought when Jesus told them to feed all those people? Do you ever think that maybe God didn't understand the situation by the answer that you got? Have you ever followed through on something that you thought for sure wasn't going to work?

Philip and Andrew were also unsure of how they were going to accomplish the task, but they were faithful and committed. Because they were, all the people were fed.

Gather the kids in a circle, giving each one a snack or treat. Ask them to share their candy by passing it to the right. Then ask them to share with the person on their left. Every child should still have a piece of candy, demonstrating that even if they give away everything they have, they still won't be without.

## A Little Goes a Long Way

Gather the kids in a circle. Discuss how sometimes a little bit of something goes a long way. Have someone in the circle spray a bottle of perfume or air freshener just one time. How much perfume did it take to fill the whole space with aroma? Now pass a small handful of unpopped popcorn to each child, not very much. Ask if the children would willingly combine their popcorn into one big pile. Pour the popcorn into a popper and watch as the pile of popcorn grows. After all is popped, have each child take a handful back. Note that there is still a lot of popcorn left. Suggest that they share popcorn with another class. Discuss: How do you think Jesus' followers felt when they saw the five loaves and two fishes? How do you think they felt after they saw all the leftovers?





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**Write on the loaves below things you can share and still have plenty of.**

