## Primary Assembly

**Feeding of the 5,000**

*The teacher and pupil leave the centre of the assembly space, and straight away the story of the Feeding of the 5000 is told. This can be done in a number of different ways, but would work especially well as a simple piece of drama, such as in the following format. The Narrator parts can be split between any number of pupils.*

Narrator Jesus went across Lake Galilee.

*Jesus and his disciples walk from the back of the assembly space to the front, preferably walking down a central aisle.*

Narrator A large crowd followed him, because they had seen his miracles of healing the sick.

*A crowd of pupils follow, and also move to the front - standing around Jesus.*

Narrator Jesus went up a hill and sat down with his disciples. The time for the Passover Festival was near.

Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he asked Philip:

Jesus Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?

Narrator He said this to test Philip; actually he already knew what he would do.

Philip answered:

Philip For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than two hundred silver coins to buy enough bread.

Narrator Another one of his disciples, Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, said,

*As Andrew speaks, he brings a boy from the audience to the front. The boy holds a basket containing bread and fish.*

Andrew There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish. But they will certainly not be enough for all these people.

Jesus Make the people sit down.

*Everyone in the crowd sits, looking at Jesus.*

Narrator So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand people.

*Jesus takes bread from the basket and hands it to the crowd, who pass it round and eat pieces from it.*

Narrator Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people who were sitting there.

He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted.

When they were all full, he said to his disciples,

Jesus Gather the pieces left over; let us not waste a bit.

*The disciples collect crumbs in baskets.*

Narrator So they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said,

Crowd Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world!

**Reflection time**

At this point ask pupils to close their eyes for a moment and to think about what they have seen and heard.

Ask a few questions, and ask children to think about the answers themselves quietly.

Why do you think so many people were following Jesus?

How did you feel when Jesus took the bread and fish and shared them with everyone?

Why do you think Jesus performs this miracle? What was he trying to tell the crowds?

In the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus made sure that everyone had what they needed.

Jesus wants us to do all we can to make sure that everyone, whoever they are, has what they need. Jesus said to give food to all those who need it.

Jesus came for all people, he shared his love with everyone, and he wants us to do the same.

**Gift’s Story**

*Explain that the Feeding of the 5000 is a great example of how Jesus showed his care and compassion to help those who were hungry. Tell the pupils that you are going to share a Gift with them – a very special Gift.*

*Prepare a large box that is wrapped with paper and is tied with a ribbon or bow. Inside the box should be a small trowel, a tomato, and a schoolbook. Ask for three volunteers to pick out these different items – they help to tell Gift’s story.*

**Introduction** Gift is a nine year old boy from Zambia – his parents gave him this name because they weren’t expecting to have children. When he was born they believed he was a gift from God!

Gift’s life used to be quite hard. His family were poor and his mum had been quite ill. They didn’t have jobs and they had very little money. For a time, they could only afford to eat pumpkin leaves.

But soon Gift’s life began to improve. The first gift for Gift was…

**Trowel** This trowel represents the tools and seeds that are making a huge difference to the lives of Gift’s family. They are learning how to grow and look after vegetables and CAFOD has provided a clean water system to help them. It means that Gift’s family can grow things like this…

**Tomato** …tomato! Being able to grow their own food means that Gift’s family have more nutritious food to eat, and they’re all becoming much more healthy. There’s plenty to go round and the family can even make money by selling their vegetables at the market. Which means they can buy things like this…

**Schoolbook** …book! When they were very poor, it was hard for Gift to get to school. His family couldn’t afford to send him. Now, Gift is able to go to school – he loves maths and can be found working out sums in the sand outside his home.

All of these things are really helping to transform the lives of Gift and his family. Gift says:

“I go to the vegetable garden once a day to stop birds and animals from eating the tomatoes. I also help my mum to water the crops. I like the garden, because when I see the tomatoes grow, I know my mum will be happy. We have a little bit more money now and that’s good because we can eat more food.”

**Prayers of Intercession**

*These short intercessions can be displayed visually on five cut outs of bread and two fish.*

Prayer 1 Thank you, Lord, for the foods we enjoy. Teach us how to share what we have.

**Help us to share.**

Prayer 2 Thank you, Lord, for showing us how to share. May we follow your example.

**Help us to share.**

Prayer 3 Thankyou, Lord, for sharing your love with everyone. Help us to do the same.

**Help us to share.**

Prayer 4 Thank you, Lord, for the wonder of creation, for the sun, the rain and the earth. We pray that we may share your gifts.

**Help us to share.**

Prayer 5 Thank you, Lord, for Gift and his family. We pray that they will be blessed.

**Help us to share.**

Prayer 6 Thank you, Lord, for our school family. Remind us to work together.

**Help us to share.**

**Closing Prayer**

Generous God

we thank you for all your gifts.

Help us to think of the needs of others.

You show us how to love and share with everyone.

We pray that we may truly share what we have,

and so help our sisters and brothers

throughout the world.

Amen.