

Christian Care Communities

Fifth Sunday Worship Materials
(Growing from John 6:1-14)

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather around you today Lord, as the people did years ago.

People: We bring our loaves and fish, as insignificant as they seem.

Leader: We come hungry and thirsty.

People: Multiply our gifts and fill us with your love and grace.

Invocation

Almighty God, be presence with us in Christ. Inspire us to live as he lived. Teach us to imitate him by loving one another. Through his example, help us care for those in need, especially those older adults who are deeply forgetful, frail and weak. Through our lives, help us share your love with our world. Hear our prayer in the name of your Son and our Savior. Amen.

Children's Moment

The Children's Moment is centered on the miracle of sharing. Have fun with this wonderful teaching opportunity! Flow with the responses!

Distribute \$3.00 among the children gathered. Give one a \$1.00 bill, one or two a quarter, a few dimes, several nickels, but give most pennies. Have someone bring in baskets full of candy. Make sure there is enough candy for everyone in the church to have at least one piece with some left over. Ask if anyone would like to buy the candy with the money you have given him or her? Take their offers. After turning down the various offers, tell them that you will sell all the candy for \$3.00 if anyone would like to buy it. Obviously no one person will have enough money. If the children do not begin to pool the money on their own, you can suggest the possibility. If they all share and come up with the \$3.00, talk about how it made you feel to give your money away and put it in the pool? Talk about how it felt to get the \$3.00 together to buy the candy. After the candy is purchased, ask the children what they want to do with it? Suggest the possibility of sharing the candy with everyone in church. Ask if they are willing to pass the candy among the congregation trusting that there will be some candy left for them? Give the children the baskets and ask them to share the candy with the congregation. When the children return, hopefully there will be candy left for all the children to have a piece with some left over.

Tell the story of the young boy who gave his lunch away to the crowd gathered around Jesus. Tell how it was multiplied to feed a multitude with food left over.

Today we will receive our Fifth Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities. I tell you what I am going to do. I am going to let the money you paid for the candy be the first gift to Christian Care Communities. I am sure God will multiply the gift.

Celebrate the miracle of sharing.

Children's Moment Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the young boy who joyfully gave his lunch away to those gathered around Jesus. Thank you for our children who shared their candy with those

gathered here. Help each of us experience the joy of giving and watching the gifts multiply for Christian Care Communities and your Kingdom. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Offertory Thought

Andrew, the brother of Peter, said, “There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?” We know that this gift of a young boy was multiplied to feed a multitude. Too often we hold back because our gift seems so small. We wonder what good our small gift can do. We forget that God can multiply our gift and make a miracle. This is the story of Christian Care Communities. Brother William Broadhurst provided a home for the young son of a dying mother. This act of kindness led to the establishment of what is now Christian Care Communities. This small, but generous act of love, has been multiplied over and over again. Now there are programs for nearly 3,300 older adults in seven Kentucky communities. Mother Teresa once said, “What we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.” Your gift no matter how small or large is important. God can multiply your gift and make a miracle. Give generously and allow God to multiply your gift for our ministries here and those in our partner ministries at Christian Care Communities!

Offertory Prayer

We come today bringing our loaves and fishes. We pray for hearts like the young boy who cheerfully gave away his lunch to the crowd gathered around our Lord. Take our gifts, Lord, and multiply them as you multiplied the gift of the young boy long ago. Multiply our gifts for ministry here in this place and for ministry to those we care for through Christian Care Communities. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray today. Amen.

Communion Invitation/Meditation

What a wonderful story! Andrew says, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish”. Jesus says, “Tell the people to sit down.” Then Jesus takes the loaves and fish, blesses them, and distributes them among the five thousand who are seated on the grass. All have as much to eat as they want and there is food left over.

Isn't that what happens at this table? We bring tiny wafers of bread and small cups of juice. Then Jesus comes to bless and transform our gifts to the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. We partake, and are filled with His love and grace. We partake and are empowered to share his love with each other. We partake, and there is enough left over to share with the world. At this table we are empowered to go into the world, to be God's love and grace.

All are invited to come and partake.

Benediction

May the God, who loves us and watches over us, abide in us. May God's presence let our love for one another continue and help us to open our arms and lives to touch and bless the lives of others. Amen.