

## Unit 2. Children of the Bible - NT

### Lesson 2.5: Nathan the Cheerful Giver

#### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

#### Bible Story:

Biblical reference: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14

*\*The story is adapted from Hyde, Katherine Bolger. Brave, Faithful, and True: Children of the Bible. Ancient Faith Publishing, 2023. (Please note that, although this is a biblical story, the character in this story is named Nathan by the author and does not appear in the Bible.)*

#### Activities:

*\*Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials list are provided in the lesson.*

Activity 1: "My Little Gift Basket" Craft

Activity 2: "Share and Multiply" Game

#### Words of the Week:

հաց - hats - bread

ձուկ - tsoog - fish

կերակրել - ger-a-grel - to feed

#### Objective

Children will understand that God can use even small gifts when we offer them with love and generosity.

#### Moral Character Focus:

**Knowledge:** Children will learn that Nathan shared his lunch with Jesus, and God used it to feed many people.

**Understanding:** Children will recognize that generosity means sharing what we have, even when it feels small.

**Application:** Children will identify ways they can be generous by sharing food, toys, time, kindness, and love with others.

**Values:** Children will develop a generous heart and learn to trust that God can use their gifts to bless others.

#### Memory Verse:

**"God loves a cheerful giver."**

**- 2 Corinthians 9:7**

# Lesson

## Open with prayer:

**Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.**

## Lesson Body: Nathan the Cheerful Giver

One bright morning, a boy named Nathan scrambled up a grassy hill near the sparkling Sea of Galilee. He was following Jesus! Nathan's heart felt bouncy and happy because Jesus told the most wonderful stories. When Jesus spoke, His words felt warm and cozy, like the biggest hug you could ever imagine.

Nathan stayed close to Jesus all day long, even when his legs got wobbly-tired and his tummy started making grumble-rumble sounds.

That morning, Nathan's mother had packed him a lunch. She tucked five little round loaves of bread and two silver fish into his cloth bag. It wasn't very much. Just enough for one hungry boy.

Before Nathan left, his mother had kissed his forehead and whispered, "Remember, my son. Share what you have. God can use even the tiniest gift to do something amazing!"

As the day went on, more and more people climbed the hill. Soon there were so many people. Grandmas and grandpas, moms and dads, boys and girls, even babies! They covered the hillside like a blanket of people, all listening to Jesus.

The sun moved slowly across the sky. Hours passed. Everyone's tummies started going grumble-grumble-rumble.

Jesus looked at all the hungry faces with kind eyes. He didn't want anyone to go home with an empty tummy.

He turned to His helpers and asked, "Where can we get bread for all these people?"

The helpers looked at the enormous crowd. There must have been thousands of people! They shook their heads and said, "Jesus, there are too many! We don't have enough food. We don't have enough money. It's impossible!"

Nathan heard everything. He peeked at the huge crowd. He looked at Jesus. Then he looked down at his little lunch bag.

His heart went thump-thump-thump.

A tiny voice inside him whispered, What if I give my lunch to Jesus? What if He can use it?

Nathan's hands felt a bit shaky and his tummy did a nervous flip-flop. His lunch was so small, and the crowd was SO big. But he took a deep breath and stepped forward.

"Jesus," Nathan said in his bravest voice, holding out his bag, "I have some bread and fish. It's not very much... but you can have it all."

Jesus looked at Nathan and smiled the warmest, most loving smile. He knelt down, took the small lunch gently in his hands, and said, "Thank you, Nathan."

Then Jesus looked up to heaven and thanked God for Nathan's gift.

And then... something magical happened!

Jesus began breaking the bread. He kept breaking it and breaking it, and somehow there was MORE and MORE! His helpers rushed around with big baskets, bringing bread and fish to everyone on the hillside.

Nathan watched with eyes as wide as saucers.

The little old grandma near the tree got bread and fish!

The twin boys sitting on the rock got bread and fish!

The baby who had been crying? Her mama got bread and fish too!

Everyone ate and ate and ate some more! Until every single tummy was full and happy.

When the meal was finished, Jesus's helpers gathered up the leftovers. Can you guess how many baskets they filled? TWELVE! Twelve overflowing baskets!

Nathan could hardly believe his eyes. His five little loaves and two little fish had fed thousands of people, with leftovers!

That night, as Nathan walked home under the twinkling stars, he learned something he would never, ever forget.

When we give what we have to Jesus, no matter how small it seems, God can do something REALLY, REALLY BIG with it.

Nathan's generous, brave heart had helped bring smiles, full tummies, and joy to so many people. And it all started with one little boy who decided to share.

***Always remember: You're never too small to make a big difference!***

Words of the Week:

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Memory Verse:

**“God loves a cheerful giver.”**

**- 2 Corinthians 9:7**

## Bible Verse Game to Remember

**“God loves a cheerful giver.”**  
**- 2 Corinthians 9:7**

**“God loves”**  
Hug arms around chest

**“a cheerful”**  
Smile big

**“giver”**  
Extend hands outward

**Connection:** God is happy when we give with joy, just like Nathan did.



## Activity 1: “My Little Gift Basket” Craft

### Materials:

Small paper baskets, cups, or bowls, paper fish and bread cutouts, crayons, glue.

*\*See cutout printable below.*

### Instructions:

1. Give each child a small basket or cup.
2. Provide paper fish and bread shapes.
3. On each piece, help children draw or write ways they can be generous, such as sharing toys, helping parents, being kind, praying for others.
4. Place the pieces inside the basket.

**Connection:** Just like Nathan, we can give our small gifts to Jesus with love.

## Activity 2: “Share and Multiply” Game

### Materials:

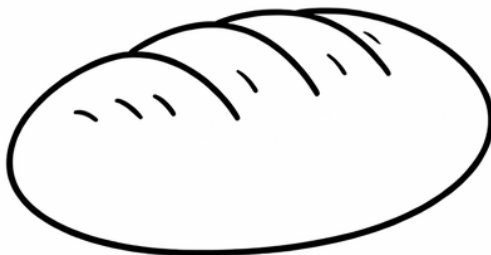
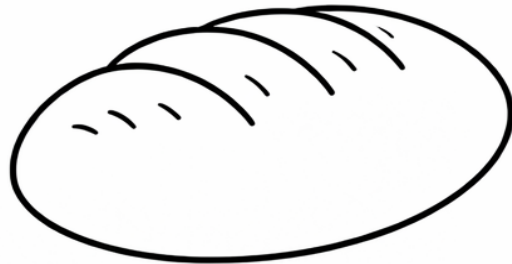
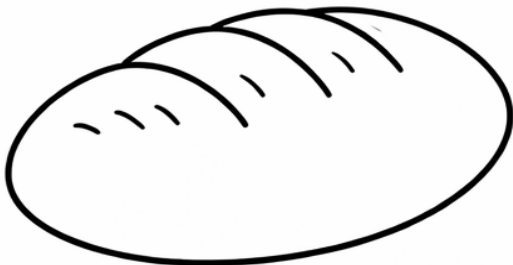
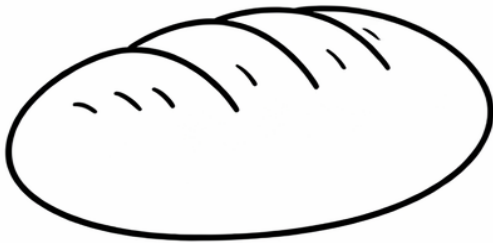
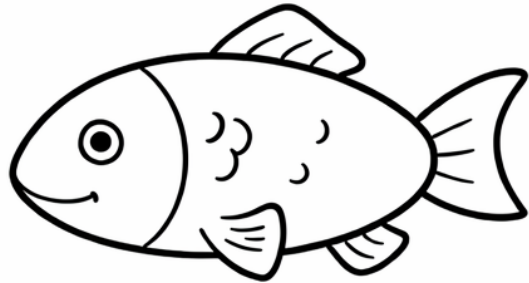
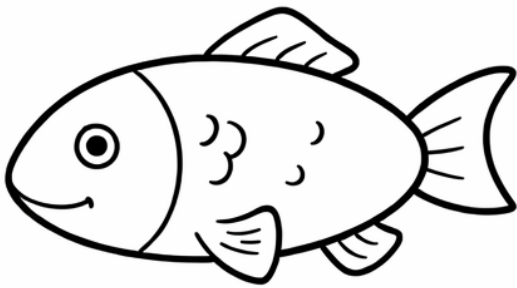
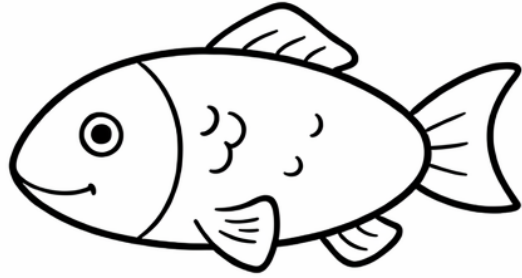
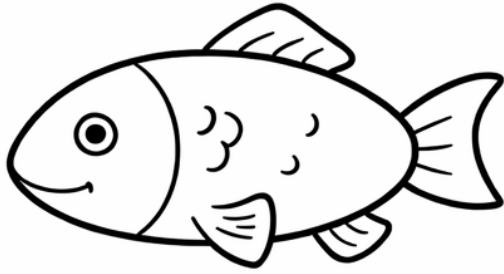
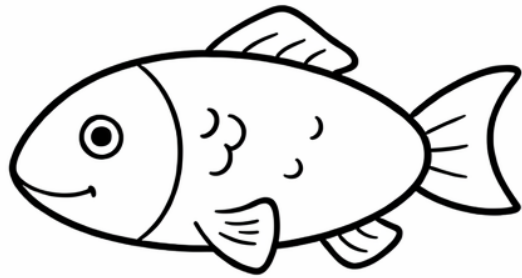
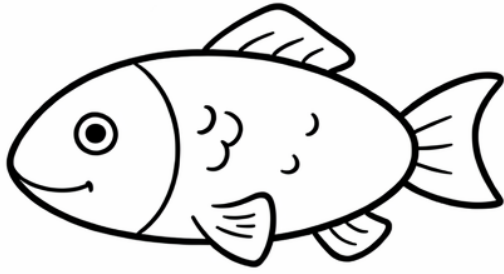
Soft balls or bean bags.

### Instructions:

1. Start with one ball and pass it gently around the circle.
2. Each time it is passed, name a kind or generous action.
3. Add more balls as the circle grows busy.

**Learning Point:** When kindness is shared, it spreads and grows.





## Review

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### Memory Verse Review:

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

### Lesson Review:

1. What did Nathan bring with him that day? *(Five loaves of bread and two fish)*
2. Why did Nathan decide to share his lunch? *(Because he trusted Jesus and wanted to help)*
3. What did Jesus do before sharing the food? *(He thanked God)*
4. What happened after everyone ate? *(There was still food left over)*
5. How can we be generous like Nathan? *(By sharing what we have and helping others with love, no matter how small or little it may be)*

### Words of the Week:

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### Life Application:

#### What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Nathan teaches us that generosity is not about how much we have, but about how willing we are to share. When we give with love, God can multiply our kindness in ways we cannot imagine. Every time we share, help, or give cheerfully, we are placing our gift into Jesus’ hands.

#### Close with prayer:

**O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.**