



SESSION 2

LESSON GUIDE

MISSION:
DEEP SEA

THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper
when I use my gifts.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Feeds the Crowd:
John 6:1-13

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

VIDEO | Morning Intro 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video.*

MUSIC | Waves of Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sing and dance along to some fun songs about God's love, including our original theme song, "We Go Deep!" Here are some other songs we like:*
- ["Let It Shine"](#)
- ["Deep and Wide"](#)
- ["All That You Need"](#)

ACTIVITY | Lunch Launch

- Welcome back, S.E.A. Agents-in-Training! I hope you're ready for another mission. We must work together to launch this lunch into the basket.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Groups will compete in a game where they must toss all of their loaves of bread and their fish into the basket. This game can be played inside where groups are tossing their lunch into a basket, or it can be played on a larger scale outdoors with a water balloon launcher and a laundry basket.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy that friends throw with and provide a large goal for them to aim for. Consider turning it into a mini relay race where the partners can pass the items back and forth with each step they take toward the goal.*

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** To avoid this game becoming too frustrating for young kids, ensure the game is done on a small scale or with large goals for easy aim. For example, instead of tossing bread loaves into a basket, tape off a large perimeter for kids to aim toward.

- Great work! In today's Bible story, we are going to hear about some people who grew their faith when they used a lunch similar to this one!

ACTIVITY | Gifts I Have

- We are going to play a game where you will have to pair up with another S.E.A. Agent-in-Training who has the same gift, talent, or ability as you. When I say something from the list that you have, start finding someone who has that same gift, talent, or ability. Once you've found a partner, sit down and share with them about your gift, talent, or ability. If you do not have the gift, talent, or ability, that's okay – we all have different gifts. Find someone else like you. Share something you both have in common!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read from the following list of gifts, talents, or abilities – feel free to add your own!
 - Plays the same sport
 - Plays the same musical instrument
 - Is able to ride a scooter, bike, or roller skate
 - Can make a new friend easily
 - Is able to recite a Bible verse from memory
 - Knows how to cook or bake
 - Can blow a bubble with chewing gum
 - Is shy when meeting new people
 - Enjoys singing
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Hold up a visual that matches the item being read. Pre-print matching stickers that the kids can put on their shirts or hang posters around the room (or on traffic cones) that the kids can go to in order to find a partner.
- ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Tell all the kids to sit on the floor or in a chair. Change the items above to "I can" statements. If the kid agrees with the statement, they can stand up. If the kid does not agree with the statement, they can sit back down or remain sitting.
- Wow! You all have some pretty great gifts, talents, and abilities. It is always fun to learn that you have something in common with a friend.
- Today, we are going to talk more about these gifts that you have. God created each of you special and gave you these traits. . . which is why we call them gifts!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

ACTIVITY | DEEP SEA HQ Skit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the script provided to perform a skit or make a video for the kids.

ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will make their own basket of fish and bread. Punch two holes on both sides of the paper plate. Loop a pipe cleaner through each hole, making handles on the plate. Tell

the kids to color their basket, fish, and loaves of bread. Cut out fish and loaves of bread and glue them to the paper plate.

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Print the printable on [shrink paper](#). Tell the kids to color it in with permanent marker, cut them out, then punch a hole in each image. Heat the items using a toaster oven. Once cooled, add the newly-created charms onto a [leather string](#) to make a bracelet, necklace, or keychain.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a buddy and have some pre-made for the kids who can't make one. They can at least color the pre-made baskets.

SCRIPTURE | John 6:1-13

- Did you know that many of Jesus' friends, or disciples, were fishermen? When Jesus first invited them to come along, Jesus even told some of them they would be "fishers of people." That meant that all the gifts they needed to catch fish – like patience, skill, endurance – they would use to bring people closer to knowing Jesus.
- They would have lots of cool stories to tell people, too! The disciples saw Jesus do lots of amazing things because of Jesus' love for them. Let's hear about one of those right now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read or summarize John 6:1-13. Use two candy fish and five dinner rolls while you tell the story, and tell volunteers to pass one of each out to the kids when you get to the part where Jesus multiplied the food.
- People came from all over the region to hear what Jesus had to say. One time, there were more than 5,000 men, women, and kids gathered on the hillside listening to Jesus.
 - They listened to Jesus for such a long time, they started getting hungry.
 - The disciples didn't know what to do. Which is funny, right? Because they were right by a lake and so many of them were fishermen!
 - Then, one of the disciples found a boy who had some loaves of bread and a few fish that he was willing to share, even though that was not nearly enough food for all of those people!
 - Jesus told the disciples to have everyone sit down. Then, Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and passed the bread to those who were seated. Jesus did the same with the fish. And do you know what? The bread and the fish didn't run out. In fact, there were even leftovers!
 - Everyone ate until they were full – every single one of them. **Do you remember how many people there were?** That's right, more than 5,000! Isn't that amazing?
- This story is so important because it's a reminder that when we bring whatever we have to God, God can do so much more with it than we can even imagine.
- Did you come to Mission: DEEP SEA today with a few fish in your pockets? Probably not, but you brought yourself and all of the unique gifts and qualities that make you special.
- When you share these gifts to serve others – whether it's helping someone learn to do something you already know how to do or even offering someone a hug – God can do even more with it than you can imagine.

THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

- Okay, S.E.A. Agents-in-Training: your next mission is to find today's Big Idea. You will need to work together to locate all of the pieces, then put it together.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On index cards, write one word from today's Big Idea. Fold up the index cards and bury them in the sand for each group to find. For large groups, duplicate this activity in different areas of your space.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Write the Big Idea on [blank puzzles](#) instead of index cards. For bonus creativity, involve a preteen ahead of time to creatively write and artistically decorate the puzzle before you take the pieces apart. Then, bury the pieces in the sand and follow the original instructions.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Pre-write the Big Idea on a large piece of butcher paper or poster board so the kids can match the index cards to it. Provide a bin of kinetic sand for them to play with after (or instead of) this activity.*
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *To help younger kids remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (move hand from ground up in levels to demonstrate growing) deeper (point downward) when I use (point to self) my gifts (hands on hips). Additionally, on a large piece of butcher paper, write the Big Idea. When a kid finds an index card, they can velcro/tape it below the corresponding words written on the butcher paper.*
- Well done, team! You found today's Big Idea: **My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts!**

ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will work together to create new drawings of ordinary objects. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil, then tell them to draw an everyday item on their paper (e.g., spoon, pencil, toothbrush, ladder, broom, etc.). Encourage the kids to draw something different from each other, and provide suggestions for kids who need them. Then, they will swap papers with someone else and draw a different way that object can be used than what it's typically used for (e.g., spoon can become a shovel. Toothbrush can become a back scratcher).*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Distribute a picture of the same item for everyone. Provide pre-printed pictures of possible alternative uses and tell the kids to glue them to paper.*
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Place random household objects (e.g., toothbrush, eating utensils, pencil, paintbrush, bobby pin, hair tie, shoelaces, bowl, etc.) inside a brown paper bag. Make sure there are enough small items for each kid to grab one. Then, ask them to think of an alternative use for it and act out both the usual and new way of using the item.*
- **Can each of you share with us what you came up with?**
- In our Bible story today, God used an ordinary boy and his ordinary lunch to feed an extraordinary amount of people! God can use you and your ordinary things to do something amazing! When we use the gifts God gave us, we can help others, learn more about God, and deepen our faith.

PRAYER

- God, Thank You for making us unique and special. Help us to be like the kid who shared what he had. We know You can do extraordinary things through us. Help us to use our gifts for You and watch our faith grow!

SNACK | Sea Snack Mix

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a bowl for each of the snack ingredients. Each kid will use a snack-sized Ziploc to create a sea scene in their Ziploc bag using blue jelly beans (water), gummy sharks, and Goldfish crackers. Ask the following questions while the kids eat:
- **If you were going to live in the ocean, where would you make your home?**
- **Why would you choose that part of the ocean to live in?**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split off into small groups and have kids share their responses to the following questions. You could choose to combine this with snack time, if you'd like!
- **Why were there so many people around who needed to be fed?** Jesus was teaching and the people were there to hear Jesus.
- **What did the young boy have that he was willing to give?** Five loaves of bread and two fish
- **What did Jesus do before the food was multiplied?** Jesus prayed and gave thanks.
- **Read John 6:12-13. How much food was left over? How is that possible?**
- **Have you ever shared something that you really wanted to keep for yourself?**
- **What gifts, talents, or abilities do you have that God has given you?**
- **How can using your gift help you grow a deeper faith? How can it help you believe in God more?**

ACTIVITY | Play Stations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the same "Play Stations" from last session, or try out some new ones! Keep in mind that this time is to encourage free play, so allow the kids to float from station to station at will, but monitor flow.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

VIDEO | Afternoon Countdown 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today's countdown video.

REFLECTION | Fingerprint Fish

- Did you know that different fish also have different scales? They are kinda like our fingerprints.
- Take a look at your fingers for a minute. Every print on each finger is different from everyone else's – yours are not the same as mine.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break off into small groups. Each group will make a giant fish out of poster board and use their fingerprints to make the fish's scales. First, encourage a few kids or a leader to draw a giant fish on the poster board. Then cut out the fish and tell the kids to take turns using the ink pads to press their fingers into the ink. Tell them to press their fingers onto the fish, creating scales of unique sizes based on the kids' fingers and colors based on the color ink they choose.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Put preteens in charge of each ink pad and also help the younger kids with getting the ink on their fingers. Have a different (or same) set of preteens be ready with baby wipes to help wipe off fingers as soon as they are done making their mark!
- God made each one of us unique. We like different things. We grew up in different ways. We have different skills. Different talents. Different gifts. **Our faith grows deeper when we use those gifts!**

REFLECTION | Gifts of Gold

- Let's think about the gifts God has given us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a small treasure chest in the center of your group, on the stage, or another general area for kids to gather. Nearby, place a stack of yellow or gold dessert party plates and pencils for the kids to grab.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a separate treasure chest with stickers or little slips of paper with some gifts written out or drawn already for the kids to put on their plates.
- Think of a gift God has given you, and write or draw about that gift on your "gold coin." Then, thank God for the gift given to you and drop it in the treasure chest.

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will use the Submarine Scramble printable to decode the words to the memory verse. Once they've unscrambled all of the words, they can put it together to form the memory verse and a fleet of submarines. Use a hole punch and twine or ribbon to string the submarines together and display them. Don't forget to review the memory verse in sign language, too!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Pre-place a set of submarines on a poster board. Use Velcro dots so students can Velcro their matching submarine to the board.
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Display the completed memory verse so the kids can reference the correct order instead of needing the ability to read it.

ACTIVITY | Deep Diver Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will create their own scuba diver with their face. Provide a Deep Diver printable for each kid, copied on card stock paper. Take a photo of each kid, preferably on day one of VBS, and have printed photos ready for this craft. You could also use an instant print camera for this. Tell the kids to color and cut out their deep diver. Leaders can assist in cutting out the photo to fit the hole in the face of the diver, and gluing them in. (If you have any kids who cannot have their photo taken, have them complete the activity by drawing a face for their diver.)
- Just like a diver goes deep into the ocean to explore the depths of the sea, we are exploring how deep God's love is for us!
- **When we use our gifts, our faith grows deeper.**

SESSION 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

MISSION:
DEEP SEA

THE BIG IDEA

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THE BIBLE

Jesus Feeds the Crowd:
John 6:1-13

Wait for cues from your VBS leader throughout the day about when you will be breaking off into small groups for the activities listed below. We suggest you have a designated area where you can keep your group's crafts and other personal items so that they can collect them all at once when it's time to leave.

ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will make their own basket of fish and bread. Punch two holes on both sides of the paper plate. Loop a pipe cleaner through each hole, making handles on the plate. Tell the kids to color their basket, fish, and loaves of bread. Cut out fish and loaves of bread and glue them to the paper plate.*

THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids find all the hidden Big Idea cards in the sand. Then have them work together to put the Big Idea in order.*

ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will work together to create new drawings of ordinary objects. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil, then tell them to draw an everyday item on their paper (e.g., spoon, pencil, toothbrush, ladder, broom, etc.). Encourage the kids to draw something different from each other, and provide suggestions for kids who need them. Then, they will swap papers with someone else and draw a different way that object can be used than what it's typically used for (e.g., spoon can become a shovel. Toothbrush can become a back scratcher).*

DISCUSSION

- **Why were there so many people around who needed to be fed?** Jesus was teaching and the people were there to hear Jesus.
- **What did the young boy have that he was willing to give?** Five loaves of bread and two fish
- **What did Jesus do before the food was multiplied?** Jesus prayed and gave thanks.