BIG IDEA: Jesus gives me gifts so that I can care for others.

Week 5

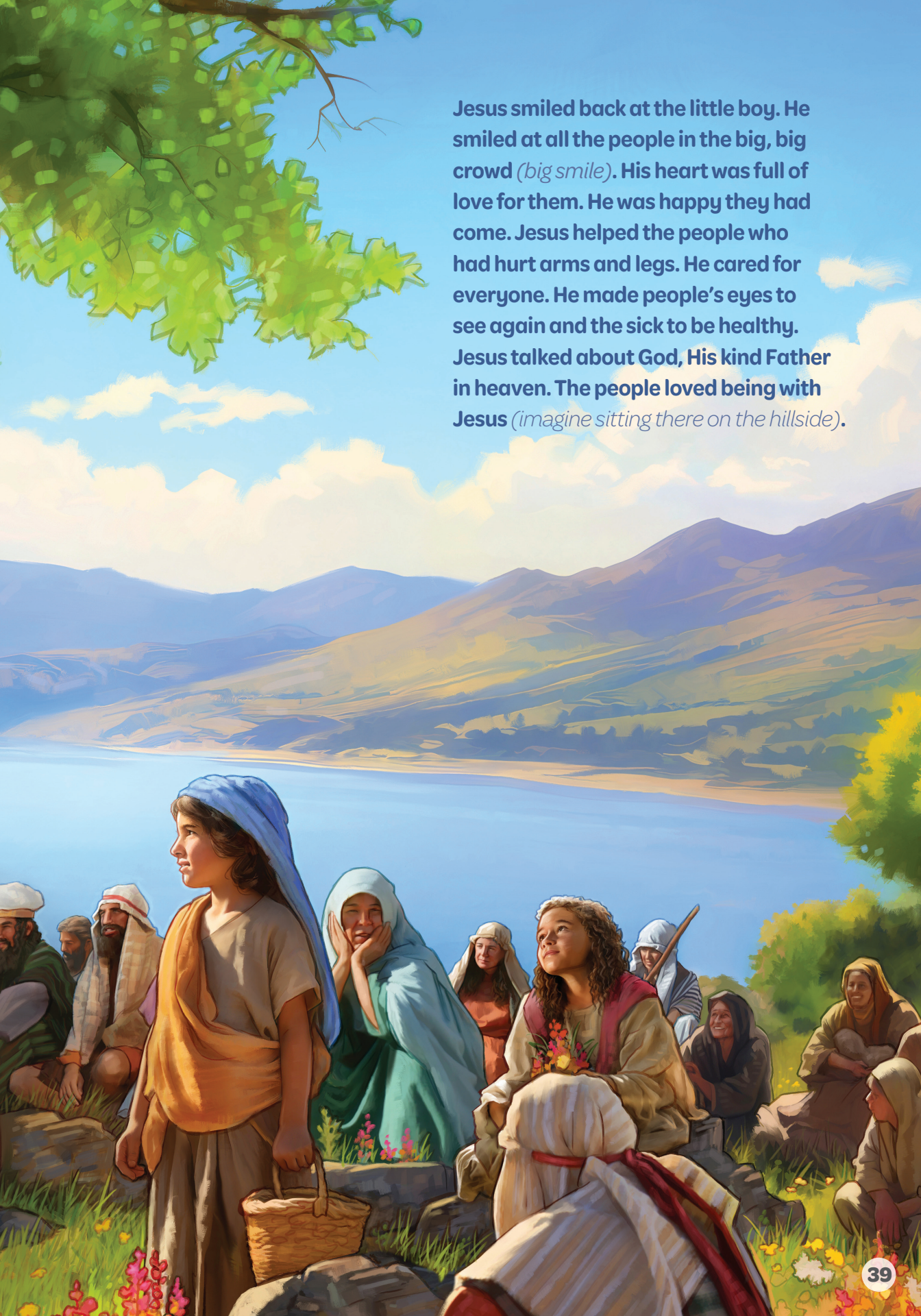
A Little Boy's Lunch



This lesson is based on Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 364–371.



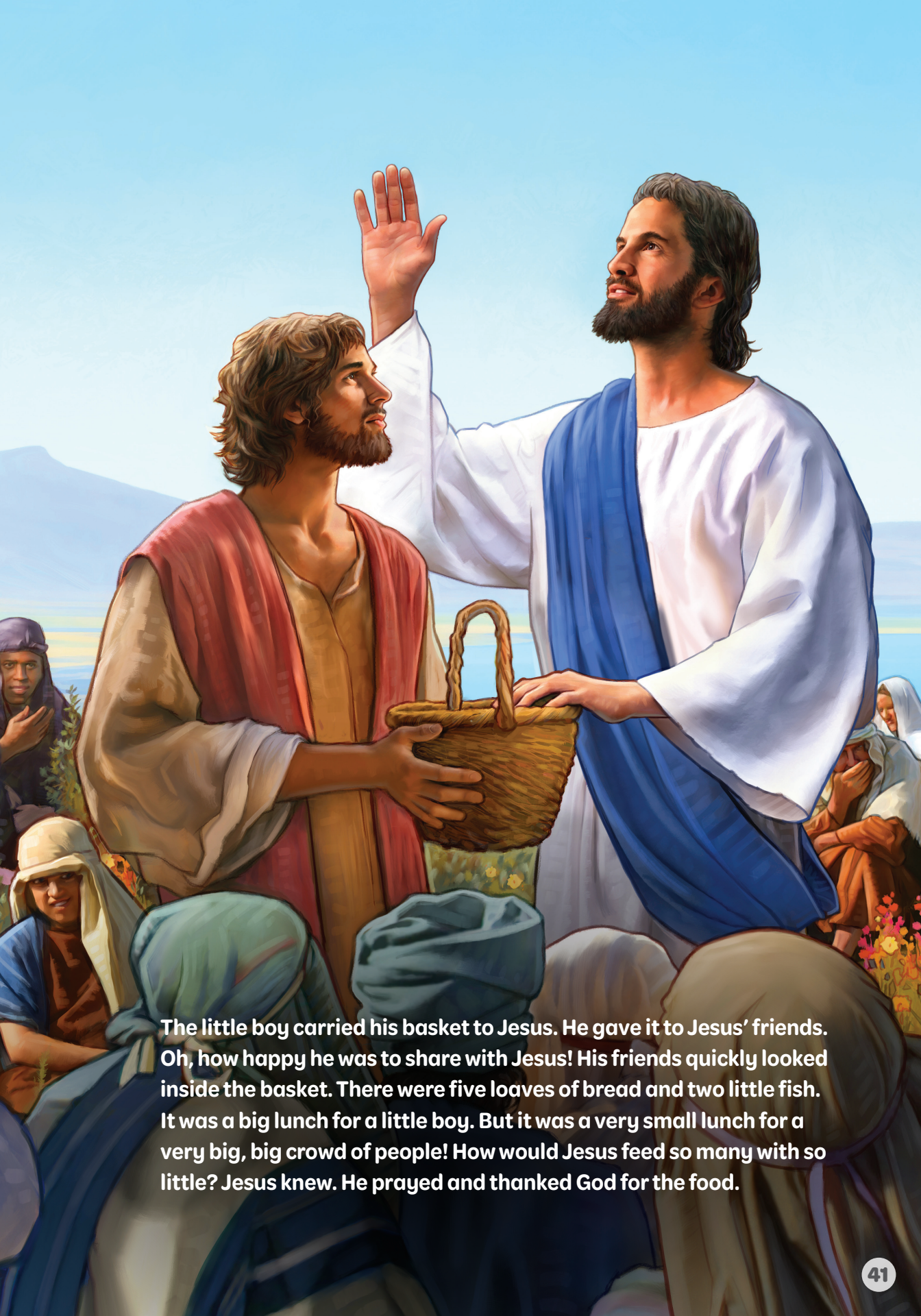
The morning sun was bright and warm. The grassy hillside was dotted with pretty flowers. Butterflies flitted about. Birds sang in the trees. Jesus and His friends sat in the shade under a tree. A big, big *(stretch arms out)* crowd of people sat before Him. There were too many people to count! The people watched *(cup eyes)* and listened *(cup ear)*. A little boy stood on the hillside and listened too. He was so happy to be there. He smiled up at Jesus *(big smile)*.



Jesus smiled back at the little boy. He smiled at all the people in the big, big crowd *(big smile)***. His heart was full of love for them. He was happy they had come. Jesus helped the people who had hurt arms and legs. He cared for everyone. He made people's eyes to see again and the sick to be healthy. Jesus talked about God, His kind Father in heaven. The people loved being with Jesus** *(imagine sitting there on the hillside)***.**

The day would soon be over. The little boy's tummy began to rumble *(rub tummy)***. He was hungry! The people beside him were hungry too. They had been there all day without anything to eat! Jesus' friends wanted to help them. But how? Jesus asked them to find out if anyone had something to eat. Mothers shook their heads . . . no** *(shake head)***. Fathers shook their heads . . . no** *(shake head)***. No one had any food! The little boy looked in his basket. He had some food!** *(Clap hands.)* **He would share it with Jesus.**





The little boy carried his basket to Jesus. He gave it to Jesus' friends. Oh, how happy he was to share with Jesus! His friends quickly looked inside the basket. There were five loaves of bread and two little fish. It was a big lunch for a little boy. But it was a very small lunch for a very big, big crowd of people! How would Jesus feed so many with so little? Jesus knew. He prayed and thanked God for the food.

One by one, Jesus took one . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five loaves of bread from the basket and broke them. There became more and more bread! Enough bread for everyone! Jesus then took one . . . two fish from the basket. Would there be enough fish too? There was! Everyone had so much to eat. The little boy was amazed. Jesus had made his food grow and grow to feed everyone.

(Say together) **Thank You, Jesus, for the gifts**
You give me so that I can help care for others.



play throughout the Day

Retell the Story

Go on a picnic. Ahead of time, cut some food into the shape of a fish. Put these "fish" along with small pieces of bread into a basket and hide them under a kitchen towel. This will be your miracle "surprise food." Invite your child to help pack a basket for a picnic. Count together as you put five small pieces of bread and two pieces of "fish" into the basket, then cover those with a cloth. Sit on a picnic blanket to tell the story. Thank God for the food, then take out five pieces of bread.. Reach into the basket again to find there is more bread and more "fish." Exclaim, "There is enough for everyone!" Show your child that you had hidden the extra underneath. Talk with them about how what Jesus did was something amazing only He could do.

Play

Set up a "Caring Center" with dolls or stuffed animals, bandages, child-safe ice packs, pretend food, and books. Talk with your child about how they can also help care for others by using kind, gentle words, taking time to read or play with someone, and sharing what they have.

Give

Write a list of things we can do to help others. Let your child think of as many ideas as possible. Choose an idea from the list each day to complete together. Pack bags with nonperishable food, socks and warm clothing items, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, and other personal-care items. Make and decorate small cards for each bag and write 1 Peter 5:7: "Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you" (ICB). Talk with your child about how Jesus can use their gift to help others who are in need and to show each person that He cares for them. Donate bags to a homeless shelter or other community organization.

Share

Bake small loaves of bread with your child. Help them measure and pour each ingredient and knead the dough with their hands. Make enough to share with a neighbor or someone they know who is sick or hurt. Talk with your child about how their act of kindness can show others that Jesus cares for them.

Connect

Sit outside and talk about what it would have been like to be part of the crowd that day on the mountainside. Imagine the people's faces as they saw the little lunch grow bigger before their eyes!

Pray

As you say grace and thank God for your food this week, reflect on the many things Jesus gives us. Ask your child to list the foods they enjoy most and thank God for them. Teach your child a grace song and sing it together at mealtimes.



Extension weekly memory verse: "And be kind to one another" (Ephesians 4:32).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Have you ever been completely and utterly overwhelmed? Maybe it was finding out you were about to become a parent. Perhaps it was those first few hazy weeks of your new baby's life. The disciples were a little overwhelmed on the Galilee hillside that day. Faced with a hungry crowd, Jesus told them, "You give them something to eat" (Luke 9:13). They couldn't fathom where to begin to find enough food for the crowd, or how they'd pay for it. Again and again, Jesus proves that He is big enough to deal with the overwhelming facts, the impossibilities, and the clouds of doubt that we face.

"How often our hearts sink, and faith fails us, as we see how great is the need and how small the means in our hands. Like Andrew looking upon the five barley loaves and the two little fishes, we exclaim 'What are they among so many?' Often we hesitate, unwilling to give all that we have, fearing to spend and to be spent for others. But Jesus has bidden us, 'Give *ye* them to eat.' His command is a promise; and behind it is the same power that fed the multitude beside the sea" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 369).

Jesus wants us to see the needs of those around us. When we are overwhelmed with the situations we face, Jesus offers to be our strength and support. He has given you special gifts and talents. However small they may seem, they have the potential to nurture others and lead them to Jesus. An act of kindness, a word of encouragement, the giving of time, or a listening ear are all things we can give—and God will multiply them and bless abundantly. How encouraging to know that we have access to the same power that fed the multitude that day.

For truly, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

