



## Children's Feature: The Right Tools

**Background:** Canada is part of an international treaty (agreement) in which commitments are made to provide emergency food as a response to hunger, but also to make other important tools available, such as seeds and tools to grow food, cash for people who are in need in exchange for community work projects, or re-stocking of animals for people who normally survive by caring for animals.

**Learning objective:** To help children understand that the solution to hunger includes not only providing food but also helping people get the various tools they need to care for their own families.

**Recommended time:** 5-10 minutes

**Recommended ages:** early childhood, preschool (ages 2-6)

**Materials:** Bag with potato or other vegetable or fruit, hammer, book, spade or other gardening tools or a package of seeds, coins etc.

**Suggested Bible passage:** John 6:1-13, Feeding the 5,000

What's your favorite food? Do you get hungry sometimes? What do you do when you're hungry and want something to eat? What do you think would happen if you didn't have any food at all to eat at your house?

Jesus told a story about a whole lot of people who were hungry. They were men and women and children who went to hear Jesus talk and they stayed and listened all day. In fact, they stayed so long that it began to get late and everyone was hungry. Jesus asked his disciples to feed everyone, but they didn't know how to do it.

Then Andrew, one of the disciples, found a little boy who had 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. This boy wanted to give his bread and fish to Jesus. Jesus took what the little boy offered and said a blessing on them. Then the disciples went through the crowd giving out the bread and fish and do you know what happened? Everybody had enough to eat with even some left over. Do you know how many people were fed? Over 5,000 people had something to eat because this little boy shared his food.

Today there are millions of people in the world who don't always get enough to eat. What could followers of Jesus do about that?

Look at the items in my bag. What do you see? Which ones of these could we use to feed someone? (The most obvious response would be the potato or fruits/vegetables.)

Are there ways we could use the other things in the bag to help people get enough to eat?

### Some possible responses:

- We could give people seeds or tools so they could grow their own garden.
- A book can represent helping people get a good education or learning new skills so they can get a better job and have the money they need to buy their food.
- A hammer can represent projects which help people build a home or improve their living conditions. A hammer could also represent learning a new skill to get a job and have enough to buy what is needed.
- Coins represent collecting money to donate to organizations that feed and help people who are hungry in other ways.

There are many ways to help people who don't get enough food to eat. We can help them have good food right away. We can collect money for Canadian Foodgrains Bank or one of its member agencies.

Everyone needs food to be healthy, to be able to learn and to be able to work. We can help people learn new skills so they can find jobs or get better ones. We can talk to our government leaders and find out what they are doing to help people take care of their families. Jesus said whenever we feed someone it is like we are feeding Jesus himself.

### Prayer Suggestion:

Loving God, thank you for showing us that children's gifts are important to Jesus and that when we share, Jesus can do miracles. Amen.

—Adapted from End Hunger USA's National Hunger Awareness Day  
Resources: [endhunger.org](http://endhunger.org)