Focus: As good Christians, we need to help others.

Scripture: Matthew 14:15-21 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."[16] Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."[17] "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.[18] "Bring them here to me," he said. [19] And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. [20] They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. [21] The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Materials Needed: Cookies, Icing, plastic knives, sprinkles, baggies.

Preparation: Before Story Time, arrange for a place to take cookies . Gather supplies.

Story Time: Say to students, "Today I am going to tell you a story from the Bible. One day Jesus was preaching to a crowd of people. It began to get late, so his disciples came up to him and told him to send the people to the village so they could buy themselves some food. Jesus said that they did not need to go away, that the disciples should give them something to eat. They told Jesus that they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. During that time, the people ate mostly bread and dried fish. Jesus took the bread and fish and gave thanks to God. Jesus gave the bread and fish back to the disciples and they passed them out to the people. All the people ate until they were full. The disciples then picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. They had served five thousand men, besides women and children." This is considered one of the many miracles that Jesus did. Jesus provided food for the hungry. Do you know that there are people in the world who do not have enough food to eat? There are people who go to bed hungry each night. God calls us to help others. One way is to provide food for those who are hungry. Other ways might be to be a friend to someone who has no friends. What are other ways we can help others?

People in Nicaragua often do not have enough to eat. They go to bed with their stomachs growling because they are hungry. They wake up in the morning still hungry. How do you feel when you are hungry? Where do you get your food to eat? *Show the first picture*. The Rainbow Network provides food for those in Nicaragua to cook and eat. They help children, mothers who are having babies, and old people. *Show the second picture*. Your offering helps provide food so the children in Nicaragua will have something to eat when they are hungry. Let's pray."

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the food we have. Thank you for friends and family. Thank you for all you have given to me. Show me how I can be helpful to others. Amen.

Story Time Activity: Have each student ice two cookies and then decorate with sprinkles. They can eat one and put the other decorated cookie in a baggy to take to a nursing home or homeless shelter.