

## IF I ONLY HAD A BRAIN! BRAIN-BASED LEARNING FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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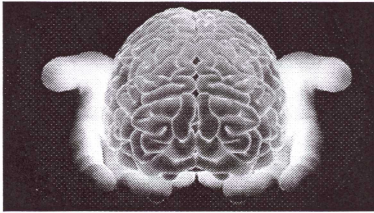
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## GOD DESIGNED AN AMAZING BRAIN



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## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GOD'S CREATION

- Is like a powerful computer that stores our memory and controls how we humans think and react.
- The brain contains billion of nerve cells that sends and receives messages all over the body.
- The human brain is over 3 times as big as the brain of other mammals that are of the same body size.
- The brain of an adult weighs approximately 3 pounds and makes up around 2% of the body weight.

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### RETICULAR ACTIVATING SYSTEM

- The brain's filtering system
- Located in the survival area of the brain
- Allows what information enters the brain
- It filters out about 99% of incoming information
- Has changed recently due to constant messaging and information

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### BRAIN-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

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### WHAT CAN A TEACHER DO?

- Use students' names as much as possible
- Provide novelty
- Provide humor
- Promote problem solving
- Use storytelling
- Play games
- Make connections
- Allow movement

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## STORYTELLING JOHN 6:1-14




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- Stories are the emotional glue that connects the audience to the message
- Information presentation should be constructed around a story
- People want to know about origins
- Stories reshape knowledge into something meaningful
- Stories make people care
- Stories are motivating
- People take time out for stories
- Stories are more likely to make people care

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## ALLOW MOVEMENT

- Exercise may have both a physiological and developmental impact on children's brains.
- Increased oxygen to the brain that may enhance its ability to learn
- Alterations to neurotransmitters
- Structural changes in the central nervous system
- The connection between learning and exercise seems to be especially strong for elementary school students.

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### MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

- One day a large crowd gathered (extend arms out wide)
- To hear Jesus teach (cup hand to ear to indicate listening)
- It was getting late (look at wristwatch)
- And this large crowd was getting hungry (rub stomach area to indicate hunger)
- Jesus said, "Feed them." (hands around mouth to indicate talking)
- The disciples said there was not enough food (shrug shoulder and shake head)
- A small boy had 5 loaves and 2 fishes (hold up 5 fingers and 2 fingers)

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### MOVEMENT CONTINUED

- Jesus prayed over the food (fold hands and bow head in prayer)
- And distributed it to all of the people (pretend to hand out food)
- They were all full (hand over stomach area and big smile on face)
- And there were 12 baskets left over (pretend to collect leftovers)
- The crowd knew they had seen a miracle (lift hand and face to Heaven).

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### REPEAT, CONNECT AND HAVE MORE FUN




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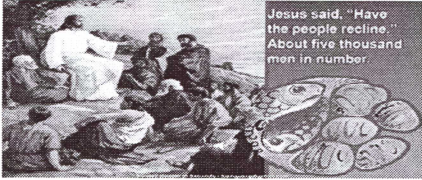
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## THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND



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## PROBLEM SOLVING



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## GAMES



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## GARDNER'S SEVEN INTELLIGENCES

Verbal/Linguistic: Interviews, puppet shows  
 Logical Mathematical: Figuring out solutions, graphic organizers  
 Visual/Spatial: Illustrate maps, pictures  
 Body/Kinesthetic: Movement, manipulating objects  
 Musical/Rhythmic: Tap a beat, create songs  
 Interpersonal: Group projects  
 Intrapersonal: Journaling

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## RESOURCES

- Bruce, B. (1996). *Seven way of teaching the Bible to children*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Brain-Friendly Teaching: Strategies to Improve Memory-Marilee Sperenger
- [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/profdev/profdev156.shtml#sthash.KQQA4eFx.dpuf](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev/profdev156.shtml#sthash.KQQA4eFx.dpuf)
- *Principles of learning: 7 principles to guide personalized, student-centered learning in the technology-enhanced, blended learning environment*. Retrieved July 4, 2011 from [https://principlesoflearning.wordpress.com].
- <http://thelearningcoach.com/elearning2-0/why-you-need-to-use-storytelling-for-learning/>
- Sousa, D. (2006). *How the brain learns*. Thousand Oaks: Corwin Press.

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