

This week

Westworth Kids

Will be Learning About

Jesus Feeds 5,000

John 6:1-14

I can share.



One Basket
1 basket shared became 12 baskets!

SPARK
ACTIVATE FAITH™

Name _____

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Jesus Feeds 5,000
from John 6:1-14.

Everyone can be fed and loved by Jesus.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Sea of Galilee ▪ Fragments
- Crowd ▪ Baskets
- Passover ▪ Andrew
- Barley ▪ Signs

Barley was one of the most important food grains in the ancient world, including Israel. It was sometimes used for medicinal purposes as well as being the general food of Roman gladiators, who were called *hardearii* or "barley men."

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 26-29, 34-37

Spark Bible pages 17-18, 21

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you our abilities and strengths so that they may be miraculously increased by you. Multiply our gifts so we may share them with others and bless your kingdom. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 If you add the number of barley loaves and the number of fishes the boy brought for his lunch, how many food items did he give to Jesus? How many items are usually in your lunch?
- 2 Pretend you are the young boy in the story. Would it be difficult to share your small lunch with a bunch of strangers? Why or why not?
- 3 What is something you have (like a talent, ability, or possession) that you can give to Jesus for him to bless and multiply?
- 4 Have each member of your family tell or show something they can give to Jesus to bless. How could these things help others or share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world?



Eye Spark

This week, look for baskets at home, at school, in stores, and everywhere. Each time you see a basket, remember the twelve baskets of food that were left over after Jesus blessed the little boy's lunch.



Ear Spark

Listen for the sound of your microwave dinging when your food is hot and ready to eat. Each time you hear it ding, say, "Jesus blessed the bread and the fish and it multiplied!"

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Work together to prepare a pot of barley soup. Make sure each family member helps in some way, whether it's cutting or washing vegetables, opening cans, or cleaning the work area. When your soup is finished, take the pot to a neighbor, a sick person, or a homeless shelter and share the ways that God has blessed your family.

For younger kids

Look through your closet or drawers to find a few items of clothing that you have outgrown. Take the bag to a charity drop-off location. When you do, say a prayer asking God to bless your clothing and to let your clothing help others.

For older kids

With adult permission, use the internet and find a few barley recipes. Print the recipes off and collect the ingredients you'll need to make them. Cook or bake one of the recipes. Share the tasty treat with your family as you thank Jesus for all the food he provides.



Classroom, Jesus Feeds 5,000 Family Page. Spark™ Sunday School
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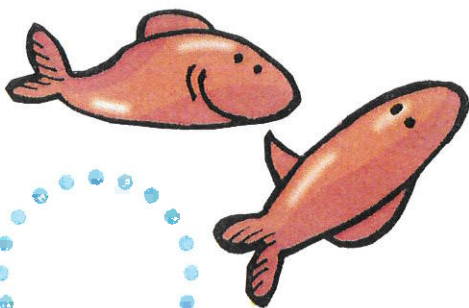
Jesus Feeds 5,000

John 6:1-14

Jesus fed all the people.

How many of these things can you count? Add stickers and try making 5,000 fingerprint people.

Name _____



5,000

Help Jesus Feed the People

How can you help Jesus feed the people?
Match needs with what you can do.



FAITHonthe**GO!**

Collect food from your home, your friends,
and your neighbors. Take the food to a local
food shelf. Help Jesus feed the people!

A Full Basket

Add paper strips to the basket.
Fill it with pictures of good things from Jesus.

Lunch, Anyone?

The little boy in today's story shared his lunch with 5,000 people! What would you like to have in your lunch? What would your friends like? Ask the people in your class what they like to have in their lunches and write the answers below.

My friend _____
likes _____
in his lunch.

My friend _____
likes _____
in her lunch.

My friend _____
likes _____
in her lunch.

My friend _____
likes _____
in his lunch.



Jesus Feeds 5,000



Jesus smiled as he heard people say,
“God must have sent Jesus to us!”

Jesus Feeds 5,000



He said in a small voice, “Jesus, please take my food if you think it will help.”

Jesus Feeds 5,000



John 6:1-14

God provides **abundantly.**



I wonder...

- How many people in the crowd knew they were part of a miracle.
- What that kid thought about Jesus using his food!
- What Jesus said when he gave thanks for the food everyone was about to eat.

Enough for Everyone

Jon finished packing his stuff in a big duffel bag, ready for another move to another foster home. He likes the family he's been with, but they are moving out of state and the rules say that he can't go with them. "Don't worry," said his social worker, Gail. "You're going to a great foster home. You should be able to stay there as long as you need to." Gail was going to drop him off there.

Jon arrives at a big old house. He can tell right away that lots of kids live there. It looks homey, not fancy, but nice. There's an old-fashioned swing on the big porch, bikes across the driveway, and a rope swing on a big oak tree. When he meets Ms. Miller, she says to call her "Mama Miller" if he wants to, like everyone else does. And then the other kids start trickling in to meet him too. Jon leans in and asks Gail how many kids live here. Mama Miller overhears. She laughs and says,

"Oh, honey, you can never have too many people to love!"

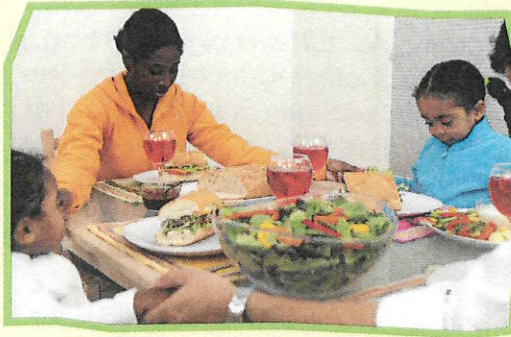
As she gives Jon a tour of his new home, she explains who's who: biological, adopted, or foster. She goes on to say that no matter how you get here, everyone gets plenty of food, decent clothes, a space of one's own, and love. At Mama Miller's, you never run out of love. Gail smiles at Jon. As she hugs him good-bye, he hears her say, "Welcome home."



Do You Want Fries with That Grace?

Did you ever wonder why a prayer of thanks before a meal is called "grace"? The meaning of "grace" comes from the word *gratitude*: being thankful for what God has provided. Even Jesus paused to give thanks before the miracle meal he made!

Help your family get in the habit of saying a simple prayer of thanks before each meal. In the space below, write a short, easy-to-remember prayer. Check out the example for ideas.



*It is good to give thanks
to the LORD, to sing praises
to your name, O Most High.*

Psalms 92:1



Look it Up!

Jesus feeding the 5,000 might have reminded his followers of another big event when God provided. Check it out in **Exodus 16:11-17**.



Memory Verse

This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world. **John 6:14b**

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Fun Facts

Barley bread that Jesus used for the **miracle** was the food of the poor.

Food is mentioned often in the Bible but there aren't any **recipes**!

In **biblical times**, eating was done with fingers or by scooping or sopping food with bread.

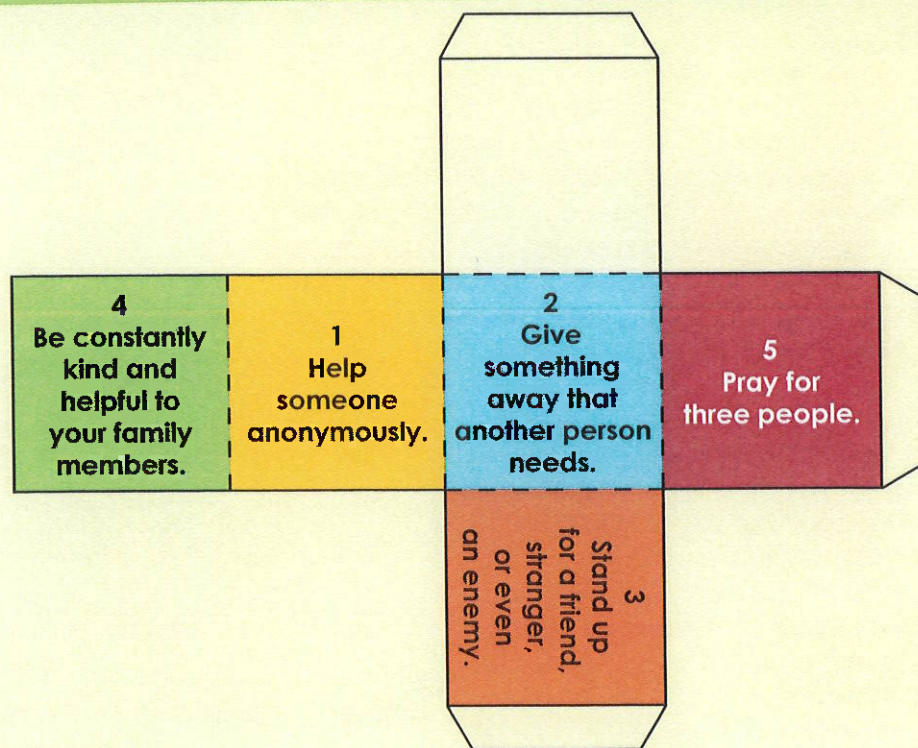
In Jesus' time, **fish** were probably cooked whole over fire on a stick.

Having an extra spot and food for an unexpected arrival was standard **hospitality**.

Fishing in Jesus' time was done with **nets**, not poles.

Need a Miracle? Clean Your Room!

No one expects you to feed 5,000 people in one shot, but God can work an abundance of miracles through average people every day! Cut out the template below and create a miracle cube. Roll it each morning and challenge yourself to help make a little miracle happen. Fill in the blank side with an idea of your own.





Bring a little extra of a healthy food to lunch to **share** with others.

Donate money to a food pantry; ask family members to match your gift.

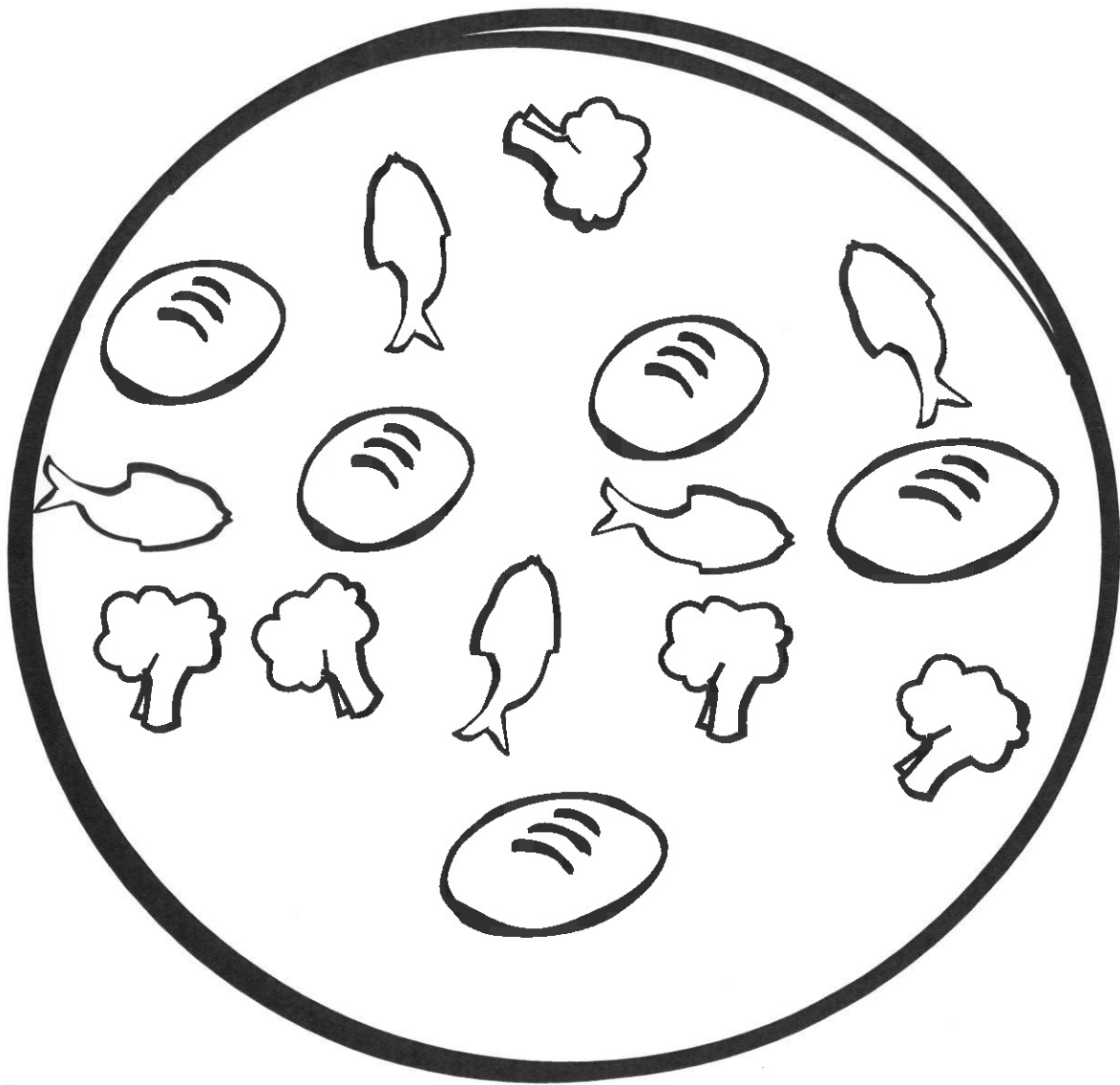
Notice five everyday miracles you **see** this week.

Plan and **cook** a healthy meal for your family.

Teach your family a simple prayer of thanks to use nightly before dinner.

Equal Shares!

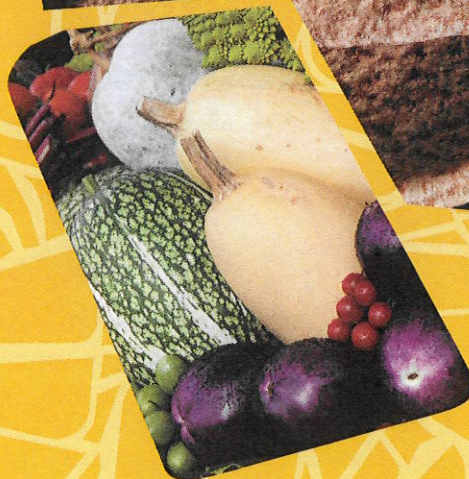
Jesus shared one boy's meal with 5,000 people, but it can be hard to share with even 5! Take this lunch and draw four lines from top to bottom, making sure all 5 people get the same amount of food.



Jesus Feeds 5,000



John 6:1-14



Where have
you seen God's
abundance at work?

Grades 5-6, Classroom, Jesus Feeds 5,000 Leaflet, Spark™ Sunday School
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If Not 5,000, How Many?

What's the most number of people you've ever eaten a meal with? Write about your remembrances of the event here: what was served, who attended, the occasion for the gathering. Did they run out of food? Or your favorite food?



Why Not Hash Browns and Hamburgers?

Ever wonder about what people ate during Jesus' lifetime besides bread and fish? Here's a look at what diets looked like several thousand years ago.

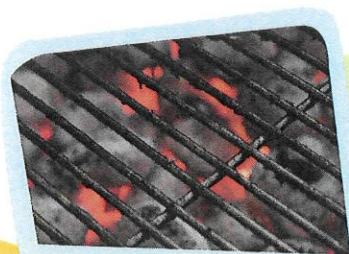
MEAT: Lamb and calf meat were popular. Jewish dietetic laws mostly forbid people from eating pork.

MILK: Goat's milk and cheese were consumed.

BEANS AND GRAINS: Lentils were a staple in ancient diets, as were barley and wheat.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Berries and dates. Olives and grapes were also grown, but usually for oil or wine.

DRINK: Water and wine. That's right, no soda.



Did You Know?

In October 2008, more than 30,000 hungry people near Asuncion, Paraguay grilled their way into history, devouring almost 62,000 pounds of meat over the course of 6 hours to create the world's largest barbecue. No word on how many wet napkins were used.



Look it up!

The first miracle Jesus performed also centered around a consumable. What was it? Turn to John 2:1-11 (pages 1172-1173 in the Spark Bible) in your Spark Bible to find out the extraordinary thing Jesus did with an ordinary ingredient.

Do the Masses Math

How much food did Jesus and the disciples serve at the gathering of the 5,000? See if you can add it up.

The average serving of bread is 2 small round loaves.

- 7 out of 10 people had the average serving.
- 2 out of 10 people had 1 loaf.
- 1 out of 10 people had 3 loaves.

How many bread loaves were served? _____

The average serving of fish is 3 fishes.

- 12 out of 20 people had 3 fish.
- 4 out of 20 had 2 fish.
- 2 out of 20 had 4 fish.
- 1 out of 20 didn't like fish.
- 1 out of 20 ate 3 ½ fish.

How many fish were served? _____



The 5,000 Scramble

Unscramble these key words from the Jesus Feeds 5,000 story and use the circled letters to form the mystery answer.

BSTEIRIA



REMFSGTNA



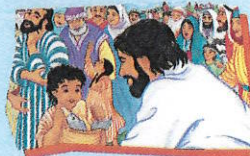
HOPTERP



LEEWTV



TODSNHAU



MYSTERY ANSWER

CLUE: If Jesus and the disciples didn't break a world record, at least they broke this.



Feed the World

Many organizations reach out to fill and feed the hungry. Here are a few, and website addresses where you can learn how to help with your time, talents and money.

Bread for the World. This multi-denominational Christian organization works to lobby Congress to end hunger, and feed the hungry in the U.S. and abroad. www.bread.org

Oxfam America. Part of the larger Oxfam International, this group works with communities in the U.S. and abroad to help them find solutions to their hunger and poverty problems. www.oxfamamerica.org

Feeding America. With its network of more than 200 local food banks, Feeding America provides 7 nutritious meals for hungry men, women and children for just \$1. www.feedingamerica.org



Faith on the Go!

One bit of action is easy to overlook in the Jesus Feeds 5,000 story: A little boy starts the miracle by stepping forward with his small basket of loaves and fish. When we move towards love, sharing and compassion, Jesus acts—and fills our every need. Find some small thing that you can do each day this week that helps someone out.

Memory Verse



Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. John 6:11

Bread for Everyone

In today's story, Jesus performs a miracle and feeds thousands of people. Today millions of people around the world still don't have enough to eat. Learn more about world hunger while you read these facts.

FACT:

There are 6.7 billion people in the world. Of those, 963 million are hungry every day.

FACT:

Even though the United States is one of the richest countries in the world, there are still 35 million people who live in hunger or are at risk of hunger here. That's almost 1 in 10 people.

FACT:

There are lots of groups that are working to solve the hunger issue in the world. Ask your parents to help you go to www.bread.org or www.lutheranworld.org to learn more about what people are doing to help those in need.

FACT:

Hungry children are less likely to go to school and more likely to be sick.

FACT:

What can you do for your community? For your state or province? For your world? Write some ideas here.
