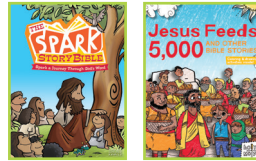


## Summer Bible Story Activities

# Jesus Feeds 5,000

### Where to find the story of Jesus Feeds 5,000

- John 6:1-14
- *Spark Story Bible: Family Edition* pages 344-349
- *Jesus Feeds 5,000 and Other Bible Stories*



### This week's activities

- Craft activities
  - Fun Fish Sacks to Share
    - Kids decorate sacks to bring to a foodshelf and remember that they can be generous
  - Self-Portrait with Pattern Border
    - Kids draw themselves doing or giving something to Jesus to use as they remember that they can help Jesus
- Cooking activity
  - Stretchy Bread Fish
    - Kids make breadsticks into the shape of a fish to remember that when we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch
- Activity pages
  - Lunch, Anyone?
  - Equal Shares!
- Coloring pages
  - Let kids color their way through the story of Jesus Feeds 5,000

### Making faith connections

Here are a few suggestions for ways you can enrich your child's engagement and learning with the story of Jesus Feeds 5,000.

- Family conversations
  - 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?
  - What is something you have (like a talent, ability, or possession) that you can give to Jesus for him to bless and multiply?
- 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.
- Make tuna sandwiches together. Take them on a picnic and read the story from your Bible (John 6:1-14). Bless your meal and eat it as if it were part of the feeding of the 5,000.

### A Prayer to Say Together

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.

Find more great stuff at [sparkhouse.org](http://sparkhouse.org)



# Jesus Feeds 5,000 Craft Activity

## Self-Portrait with Pattern Border

Kids draw themselves doing or giving something for Jesus to use as they remember: "I can help Jesus!"

### Supplies:

- Oven toasted wheat cereal squares
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Bowls
- Drawing paper, 8½ inches x 11 inches (22 cm x 28 cm)
- Liquid glue
- Pencils
- Crayons

### Set Up:

Pour cereal squares and fish-shaped crackers into separate bowls. Place supplies in a central location.

### Instructions:

**In our story, the little boy gave what he had to Jesus. What are some things we can give to Jesus for him to use? (*abilities, talents, money, time*) Yes, Jesus can take something very small and make it very big, just like he did with the loaves and fish. In today's art project, you are going to draw yourself doing something that you can give to Jesus for him to use. It can be a talent, a skill, or something you like to do. Once your picture is finished, you are going to create a really special pattern border with cereal squares and fish-shaped crackers! Let's get started.**

1. Give each kid a sheet of drawing paper.
2. Ask kids to draw a self-portrait before working on a border for the paper.
3. When kids are ready to begin working on their borders, invite them to examine the cereal squares and fish-shaped crackers as a group. Discuss how the cereal squares and crackers look like what Jesus fed to the crowd of 5,000.
4. Invite kids to make any kind of pattern they like with the cereal squares and crackers—encourage them to lay out a pattern before they start gluing.
5. As kids glue, remind to apply enough glue to make the cereal squares and crackers stick to the paper.
6. When kids are satisfied with their designs, ask them to set the art aside to dry.

**Your artwork looks great! I hope that each time you see what you made, you can shout out loud, "I can help Jesus!"**

# Jesus Feeds 5,000 Craft Activity

Activity Focus: I can be generous.

## Fun Fish Sacks to Share

### Supplies

- Plastic tablecloth
- Sponge stamp templates (make ahead of time)
- Assorted sponges
- Tempera paint
- Paper plates
- Sponge brushes
- Paint shirts
- Reusable cloth grocery bags, white or another light color
- Plastic bags
- Permanent markers
- Scissors

### Set Up:

- Collecting food for this activity can be done ahead of time.
- Cover your workspace with the plastic tablecloth.
- Pour some paint onto the paper plates, one color per plate.
- Lay out other sponge brushes so kids can free-paint their sacks, too.

### Activity Instructions

**Giving food to the local food shelf is a great way that we can be generous, just like the boy was in the story. We can share the food that we have with a family who needs it. We are going to decorate reusable sacks that we will fill with food for the food shelf.**

1. Help kids put on paint shirts.
2. Pass out a cloth bag to each kid. Help him or her line the cloth bag with a plastic bag so the paint will not bleed through.
3. Show kids the stamps you've created. **You can use these stamps to add designs to your bags. You can add five loaves and two fish using the loaf and fish stamps, and you can add lots of other shapes, too!**
4. Use a permanent marker to add a message to each bag, such as "This food is sent with love from (have kids write their names)."
5. Fill the bags with food donated by your family and arrange a time to drop off bags at your local food shelf.

## **Prayer Time**

**Dear Jesus,**

**Thank you for feeding 5,000 people with one boy's lunch.**

**Giving God, help us be generous.**

**Help us to be excited to share what we have, too.**

**Bless the bags we have painted. May they help us bring lots of food to hungry people.**

**Amen.**

# Jesus Feeds 5,000 Cooking Activity

Scripture Reference: John 6:1–14 or pages 344-349 in *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*.

Activity Focus: When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch.

Read aloud the story of Jesus feeding 5,000. Encourage the kids to follow along as you read and answer the questions at the end. **What did Jesus stretch?** (*fish and bread*) **Where did Jesus get the food that he stretched?** (*A little boy shared his lunch.*) **When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch.**

## Stretchy Bread Fish

### Supplies

- Soap
- Water
- Towels
- Oven
- Baking sheet
- Bowl
- Measuring spoons
- Fork
- Pastry brush
- Oven mitts
- Serving spatula
- Plates
- Napkins
- Cleaning supplies

### Ingredients (serves 6):

- Cooking spray
- Refrigerated breadsticks (1 can, 11 ounces [312 grams])
- Egg, (1)
- Water (1 tablespoon [15 mL])
- Poppy seeds (3 tablespoons [44 mL])

1. Join kids in washing hands with soap and water before they handle the food.
2. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). **It was a perfect day for a picnic, warm like this oven.**
3. Get a child's help to lightly coat a baking sheet with cooking spray. **Many men,**

women, and children covered a grassy area by the sea. All of those people had come to see Jesus and hear his stories about God's love. Do you remember how many people were there? (5,000)

4. Pop open the roll of breadstick dough. **Just when Jesus and the disciples were wondering what to do to feed all of the people, a boy popped up out of the crowd. What did the boy have?** (*lunch to share: fish and bread*)

5. Have the kids carefully separate the dough into individual breadsticks. **Jesus took the five loaves of bread and two fish from the kind boy.**

6. Give thanks to God for your snack. **The first thing Jesus did was say a prayer to thank God for the food. Let's pray to thank God for the food we will eat today: Dear God, Thanks for the gift of this food! Amen.**

7. Pass two doughy breadsticks to each kid. **Jesus shared the boy's lunch with everyone there.**

8. Help the kids stretch each breadstick to about 12 inches (30.5 cm) in length. **Stretch your dough to a long rope. Jesus stretched the small lunch to feed the whole group of people!**

9. Show the kids how to twist the dough into the shape of a fish, overlapping the ends to form the tail, as pictured below. **We are going to make this dough into fish shapes. Our snack will be bread and fish at the same time, just like the meal that the crowd ate that day by the lake. Shape your dough into two fish and lay them on the baking sheet. Gently press the point where the ends of the dough cross to hold it together.**

10. Ask one of the kids to crack the egg into a bowl and ask another kid to measure and add the water. Pass a fork around for all of the kids to help whip it to a froth. **Jesus whipped up a miracle meal that day at the picnic. Everyone was fed until they were full. There were even 12 baskets of leftovers!**

11. Help kids paint the egg wash on the bread fish with a pastry brush. Sprinkle each fish with a pinch of poppy seeds. **Sprinkle these poppy seeds on top of your bread fish. Everyone in the crowd got sprinkled by God's love when they shared that meal with Jesus. See how the seeds stick? God's love sticks to us, too!**

12. Bake the Stretchy Bread Fish for about 10–12 minutes or until browned. As the snack bakes, clean up the cooking area together and discuss more of Jesus' miracles. **Do you know about other miracles that Jesus did in the Bible?** (*healing, changing water to wine, bringing Lazarus back to life, calming a storm, etc.*)

13. Serve each kid two warm bread fish on a plate with a napkin. **When we share our lunch, Jesus stretches it to feed a bunch. Jesus does miracles with what we have to give.**

## Prayer Time

Dear God,  
Thanks for the chance to share.  
Help us open our lunch boxes and hearts.  
You take what is small and make it sooooo big!

**Thanks for your miracles and love!  
Amen.**

# Jesus Feeds 5,000



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

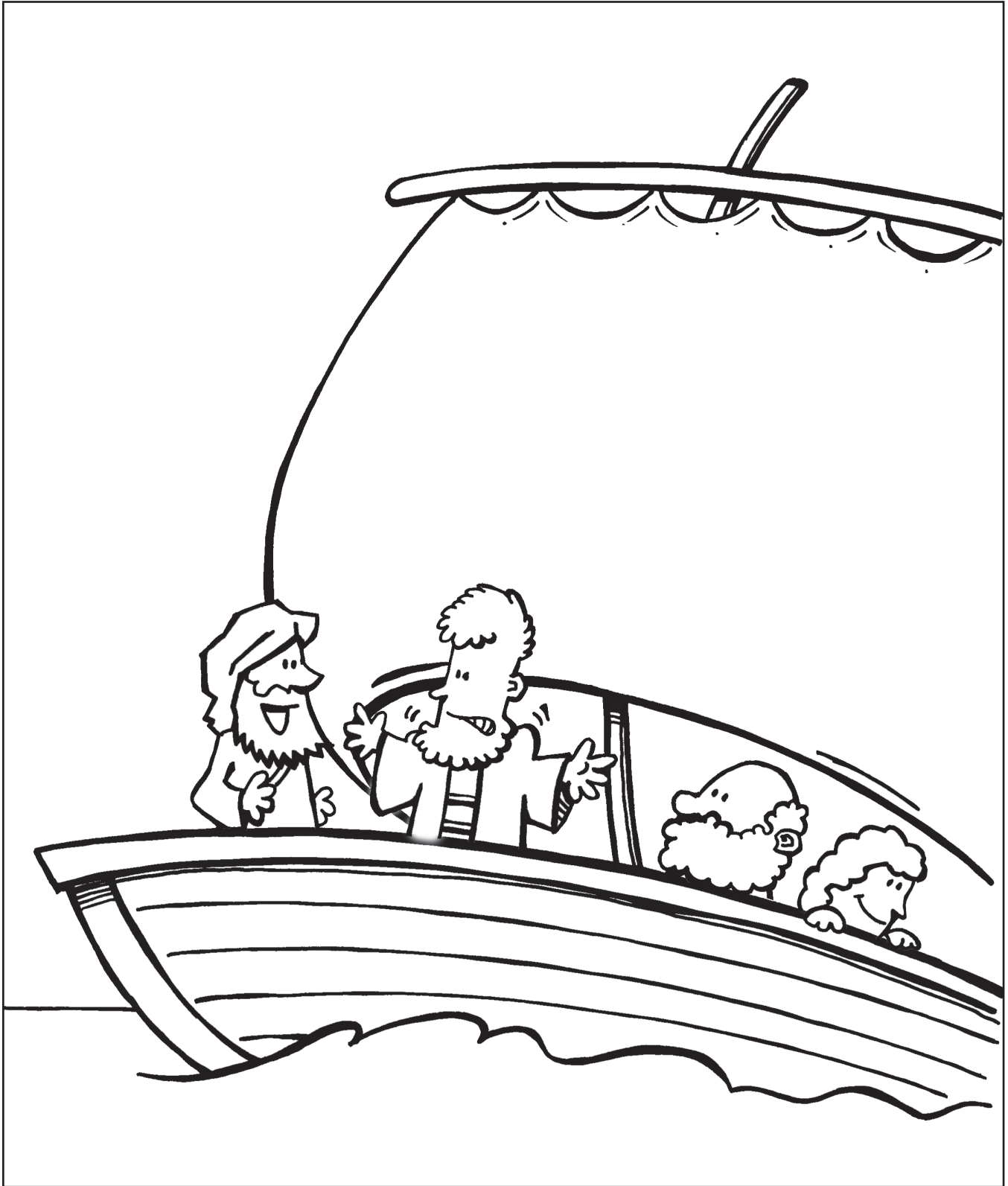


# Jesus Feeds 5,000



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

# Jesus Feeds 5,000



When Jesus saw the large crowd, he asked his friend, Phillip, "How are we going to get enough food to feed all of these people?"

# Jesus Feeds 5,000



Just then, Andrew pointed to a young child and said, “Here is a boy who has five small loaves of bread and two fish.”

# Jesus Feeds 5,000



There were enough leftover pieces of bread to fill 12 large baskets—more loaves and fishes leftover than the boy had given to Jesus!

# Jesus Feeds 5,000



The people saw the full baskets of leftovers and began to understand that something extraordinary had just happened—another miracle!

# 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 your friends 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.

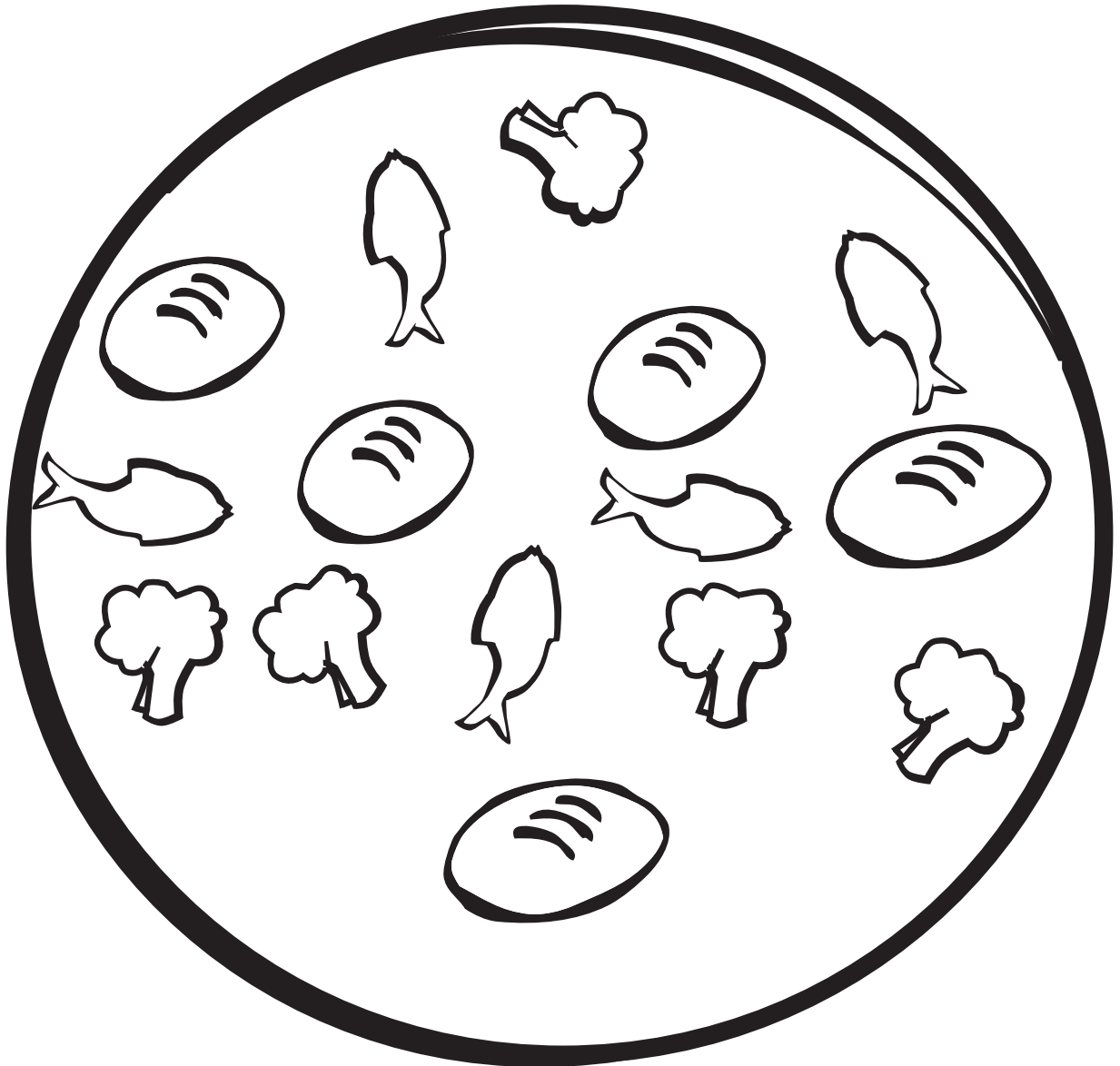
My friend \_\_\_\_\_  
likes \_\_\_\_\_  
in her lunch.

My friend \_\_\_\_\_  
likes \_\_\_\_\_  
in his lunch.



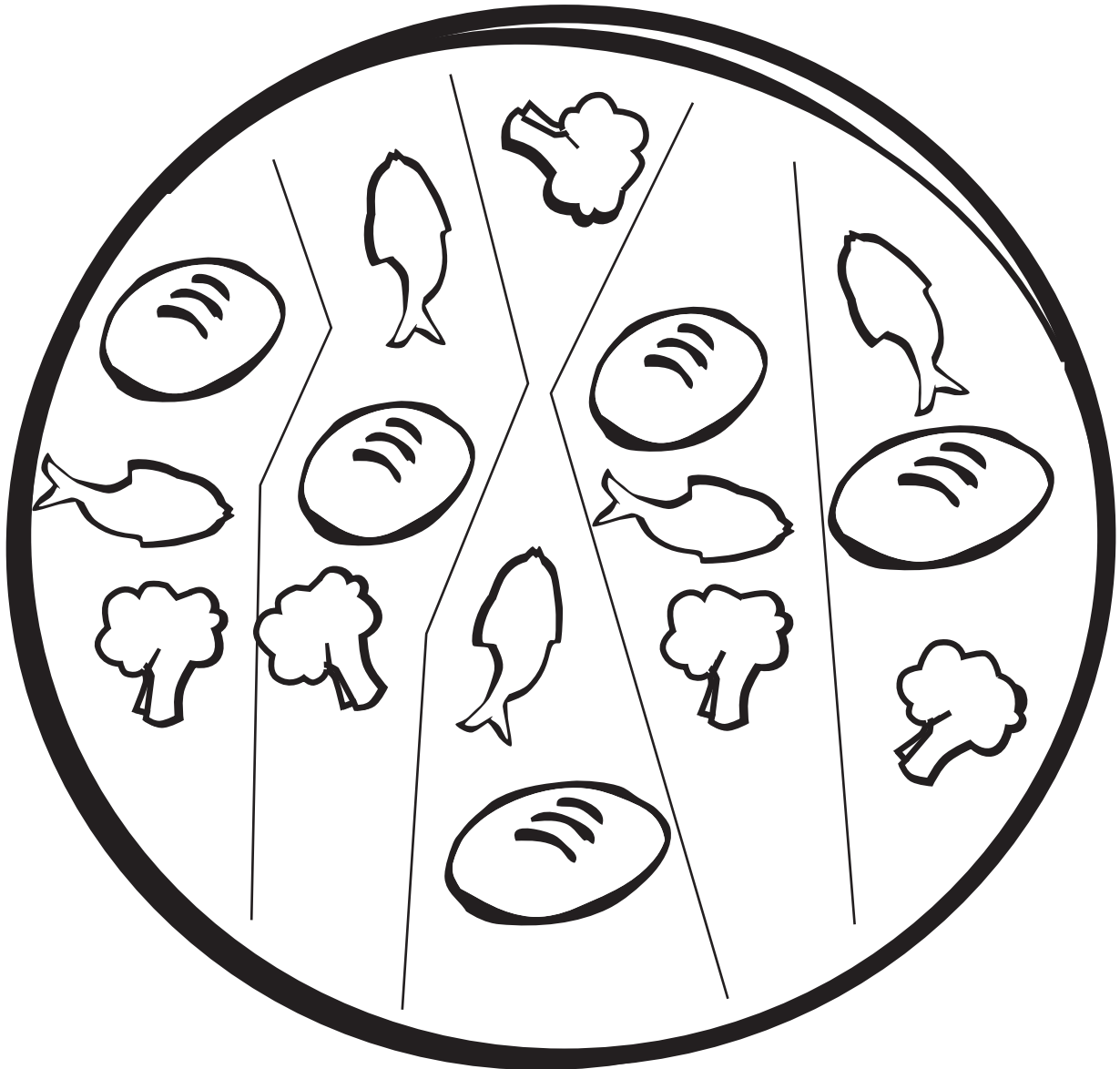
# Equal Shares!

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.



# Equal Shares! Solution

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 Song**

(Sing to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O”)

There was a picnic long ago  
Where Jesus fed the people!

Refrain:

Five loaves and two fish  
Five loaves and two fish  
Five loaves and two fish  
And Jesus fed the people!

He came ashore and found the crowd  
Just waiting there to see him.

REFRAIN

He asked his friends to find some food  
To feed the hungry people.

REFRAIN

He looked to God and said a prayer  
Then fed 5,000 people!

REFRAIN

There was enough for all to eat—  
Twelve baskets were left over!

REFRAIN