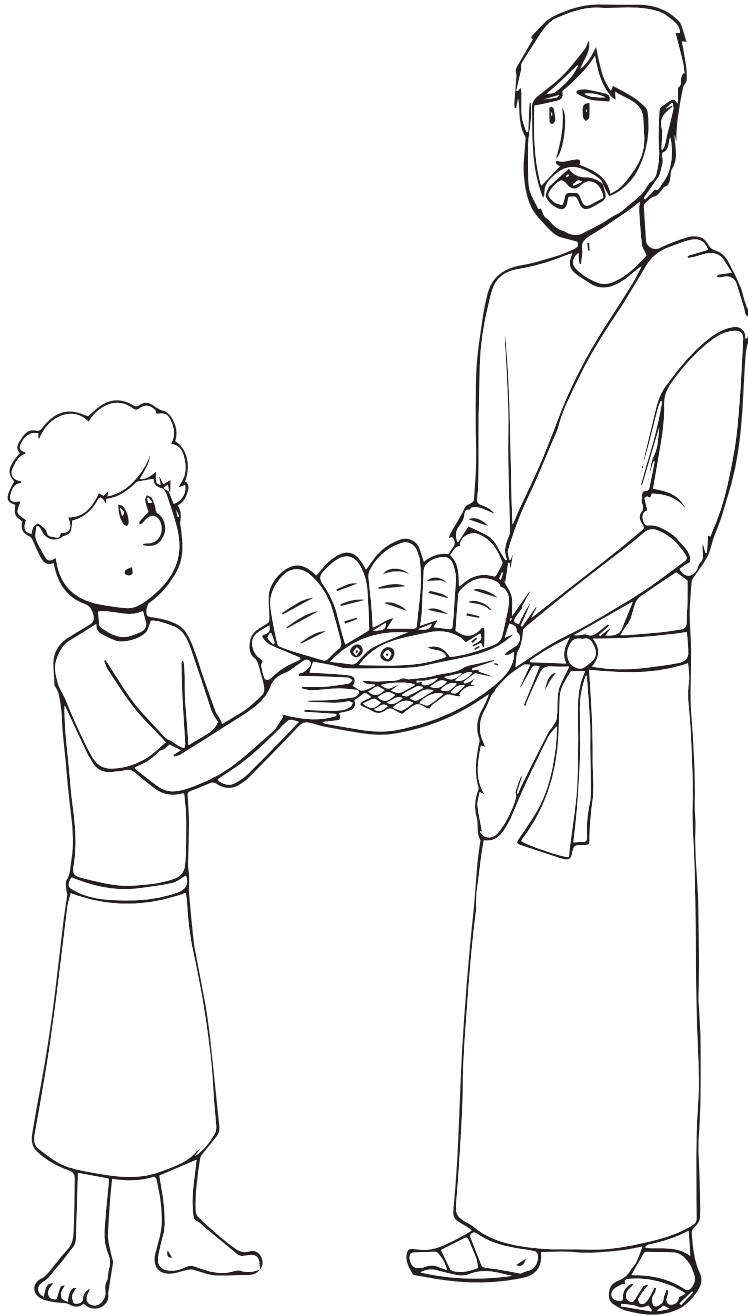


# Exploring God's Word



## Activity Book New Testament 2 **LESSON 6**

# Jesus Feeds 5,000 Coloring Sheet



“And they said to Him, ‘We have here only five loaves and two fish.’ He said, ‘Bring them here to Me.’ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass.

And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children” (Matthew 14:17-21).

# Fishing and Fishermen in the Bible

**Instructions:** Read the following article and complete the “fill in the blank” and “true or false” activity on the next page.

In New Testament times, most Jewish people ate fish every day because it was easy to get and inexpensive. It was sold fresh but was often smoked or pickled.

There were several ways used to catch fish. Fishing rods were not used, but sometimes fishermen put out lines with baited hooks (Matthew 17:24-27). Sometimes they used spears (harpoons). Fishermen went out in a boat at night with a lantern held over the side of the boat. The light would attract fish so that they could be speared as they came close to the boat. John 21:3-11 tells us that some of the apostles fished all night and caught nothing. When they threw their net out on the other side, as Jesus told them to do, they immediately caught so many fish that they could not lift their net!

The most common way to catch fish was with nets. There were two kinds of nets. One was a dragnet about 8 or 9 feet wide and a hundred feet long (or longer). The dragnet had corks or floats on the top of the net and weights on the bottom. One boat would make a huge circle with the net, or two boats would hold the net between them. When the net was in a tight circle, the fishermen pulled the sides of the net together (like a huge bag) and pulled it to the shore.

The second kind of net was the casting net which was used mainly in shallow water. One or two men could throw this net from the shore or from a boat (Matthew 4:18). The casting net was round (about 15 feet in diameter) and had weights around the edge. When the net was thrown out into the water, the weights made it fall to the bottom of the lake, trapping fish beneath it. With a long rope connected to the center, the net could be pulled shut.

When nets were brought to shore to be emptied of their catch, fish that were good to eat were separated from the fish that weren't good to eat (bad fish) (Matthew 13:47-48). When fishing was over for the day (or for the night), the nets were spread out on the shore to dry. If their nets were torn, fishermen had to spend time repairing them before they were used again. James and John were repairing their nets when Jesus asked them to follow Him (Matthew 4: 21).

Being a fisherman was very hard work. Four of Jesus' apostles were fishermen: Peter, Andrew, James, and John. They were from Bethsaida, which was one of the fishing towns around the Sea of Galilee.

## Fill in the Blank

**Instructions:** Fill in the blanks with words from the Word Bank. One word will be used twice.

WORD BANK: Spread, James, Peter, Lantern, Dragnet, Dry, Andrew, Cast net, John, Nets

- 1) The most common way to fish was with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ was about 8 or 9 feet wide and at least a hundred feet long.
- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ was round and had a long rope attached to the middle.
- 4) The \_\_\_\_\_ was thrown out over the water by one or two men.
- 5) When fishing with a spear, fishermen would hold a \_\_\_\_\_ over the side (or front) of the boat to attract fish.
- 6) When Jesus called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be His followers, they were using cast nets in the Sea of Galilee. (Mark 1:16)
- 7) When Jesus called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be His followers, they were mending their nets. (Mark 1:19)
- 8) At the end of the day, nets were \_\_\_\_\_ out on the shore to \_\_\_\_\_.

## True or False

**Instructions:** Write "T" beside each true statement and "F" beside each false statement.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing rods were often used by fishermen in New Testament times.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Many Jews ate fish every day.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ All 12 of the apostles were fishermen.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ To attract fish to their boats at night, fishermen would hold shiny metal objects over the side.

**Instructions:** Read the following article and complete the “Food in the Bible” fill in the blank activity on the next page.

## Bread

Bread was the most important food in Bible times, and a lot of time was spent preparing it. Women would start early each morning, grinding wheat or barley on a millstone to make flour. The flour was then mixed with water to make dough. Sometimes, the dough was rolled out very flat and thin (like tortillas); after it was cooked, it was used to scoop up food. At other times, the dough was made into rolls or round loaves, like those in the little boy’s lunch which Jesus used to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. While Jeremiah was in prison, he was given a loaf of bread every day (Jeremiah 37:21).

Very thin bread was cooked on hot, flat stones or laid across the bottom of a large metal pan over an open fire. Other breads were cooked in outdoor ovens that were shared by several families. The dough was baked slowly overnight and taken out before the coals were stirred (Hosea 7:4-6) so the hot, fresh bread wouldn’t be covered with ashes.

Wheat made the best flour, which made the best bread. Bread made from barley was not as tasty, so it was cheaper. Barley bread was the bread of poor people in Bible times, but it was also common during famines and other times when food was scarce.

[The King James Version often uses the word “corn” for the grains used to make bread. “Corn” was an Old English word for any common grain or cereal, including wheat and oats. Today, when we say “corn,” we mean maize or Indian corn, like corn on the cob.]

## Jesus: the Bread of Life

After Jesus fed more than 5,000 people (Matthew 14:21), He left the crowds to find a quiet place where He could rest and pray. But the people followed Him. They wanted Jesus to perform another miracle and feed them again. But Jesus told them, “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (John 6:27). He said the “work” was to believe in Him—the One God sent from Heaven (6:29). “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst’” (John 6:32-35).

Jesus did not want the crowds to follow Him just to fill their bellies. He wanted them to listen to His words and believe that He was the Son of God. He was willing to help them, but He knew that ordinary bread wasn’t what they needed. Jesus wanted the people to understand that believing in Him was more important than just having something to eat or seeing another miracle.

Believing in Jesus, and then obeying His words, would give them life now and life after death. The same is true for us today. Remember what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount? “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness [being right with God], for they shall be filled [satisfied]” (Matthew 5:6). Jesus is the Bread of Life for us, too, and we will also be satisfied and pleasing to God if we believe in Jesus and obey His words.

# Food in the Bible

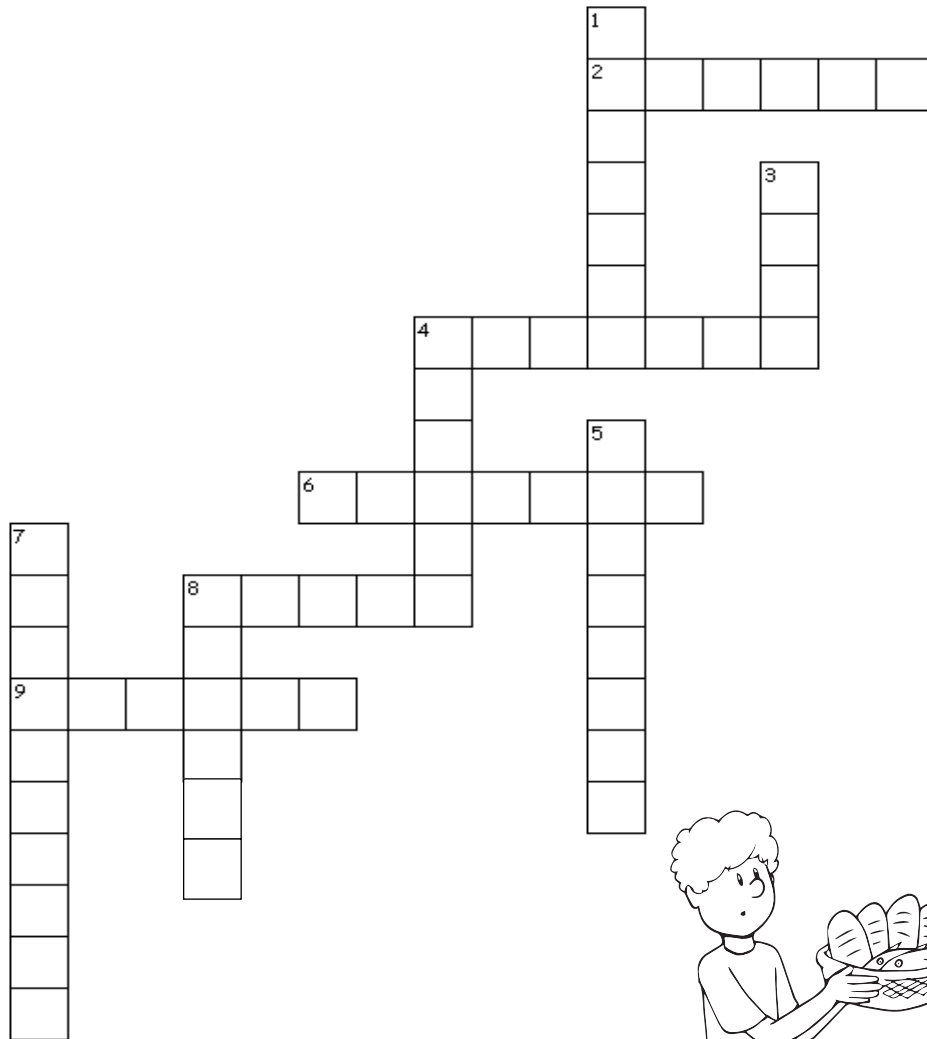
## Fill in the Blank

**Instructions:** Fill in the blanks from the paragraphs about bread and the Bread of Life.

1. Very thin, flat bread was cooked on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ were ground to make flour.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was ground for the best flour and the best bread.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ started early in the morning grinding grain for bread.
5. Grain was ground on a \_\_\_\_\_ to make flour.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ was the grain used to make a cheaper and less tasty kind of bread.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ bread was used to scoop up food.
8. Sometimes several families in a village shared \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In John 6:35, Jesus called Himself the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Jesus did not want people to follow Him just to see miracles or be fed. He wanted them to \_\_\_\_\_ to His words, \_\_\_\_\_ He was the Son of God, and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.



# Jesus Feeds the Multitudes Crossword Puzzle



## Across

2. Brought boy to Jesus. (John 6:8-9)
4. Jesus \_\_\_ and broke the food. (Luke 9:16)
6. The miracle happened near the Sea of \_\_\_\_\_. (John 6:1).
8. Jesus told people to sit down in groups of \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:14)
9. To whom did Jesus say, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5)

## Down

1. There were 12 \_\_\_\_\_ full of leftovers. (John 6:13)
3. The disciples wanted to send people away to buy \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:12)
4. A boy had 5 \_\_\_\_\_ loaves. (John 6:8-9)
5. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus because of His miracles. (John 6:14)
7. Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ on the people. (Matthew 14:14)
8. Everyone ate until they were \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:17)

# Jesus Feeds the Multitudes

## Word Search

**Instructions:** As you search for and circle the words from the word bank, think about what those words have to do with the lesson.

R  
 J C F  
 S G O G R  
 J V H M K F B  
 U D P C P N S T M  
 G E D E N A R I U S O  
 N O J E S U S N L K B M W  
 V S Q Z T H L S T E K S A B P  
 Q P R P F S B M I M O V F D R C Z  
 C S C B D B O A T O M L E L Y E L I I  
 V W X O V L Y U U J N F J E S E A E E L R  
 T N O K T K F H D J T V A L L M H D R F Y W Q  
 N I A J B G K I E M L G N J L M E D E P I R U V K  
 Y R S P H F K E S K L D A J J O W S U F H V P E E I Q  
 P D Y O L G Q H O H G J I H G R D L X X V M E U D A Z H D

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Barley     | Jesus      |
| Baskets    | Lunch      |
| Boat       | Multitudes |
| Boy        | Feeds      |
| Bread      | Fish       |
| Compassion | Five       |
| Denarius   |            |





# In the Right Order

**Instructions:** Read the sentences. Then put them in the order that they happened by writing a number in the blank beside each sentence. (If it is okay with your teacher, you can cut the sentences into strips and then put the strips in order.)

Did you know that this is the only miracle of Jesus  
that is recorded in all four of the Gospels?

That's right!

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."
- \_\_\_\_\_ Andrew, Peter's brother, brought a young boy and his lunch to Jesus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Many people believed in Jesus because of this miracle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down in groups of fifty."
- \_\_\_\_\_ The disciples wanted to send the crowds away to buy the food.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus blessed the loaves and fish before He broke them into pieces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone ate until they were full.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus had compassion on the crowds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus told His disciples to gather up all the leftover pieces of food.



# What a Picnic Word Search

**Instructions:** As you search for and circle the words from the word bank, think about what those words have to do with the lesson.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | R | M | D | V | R | Y | X | F | Q | W | O | Q |
| N | B | Y | A | Z | I | Y | C | X | D | C | B | M |
| X | U | H | E | N | Q | E | F | H | N | A | X | R |
| J | M | E | R | S | D | V | E | R | S | P | T | P |
| M | T | N | B | O | Y | R | P | K | F | I | V | E |
| P | G | X | O | M | R | F | E | W | M | V | F | H |
| F | G | F | L | K | B | T | T | W | T | U | P | K |
| B | J | E | S | U | S | N | E | Y | S | P | X | X |
| Q | Z | M | R | H | N | S | R | L | E | Z | Y | Y |
| M | M | O | F | V | G | C | Z | E | C | Q | O | Z |
| I | Z | V | V | Z | C | X | H | U | S | F | S | L |
| Q | A | E | O | X | A | Y | B | R | S | K | V | J |

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Andrew  | Five  |
| Baskets | Food  |
| Boy     | Jesus |
| Bread   | Lunch |
| Fish    | Peter |



# What a Picnic Word Search

**Instructions:** As you search for and circle the words from the word bank, think about what those words have to do with the lesson.

C U P K D C S P T J Q F P B K  
 X S V H Z A O W R V O E B N U  
 M P R P I R E U Y C R I H Z E  
 C A O E J L X R F D N E X D M  
 N F U T V X I N B I C Y S R Z  
 S C Q E C O M P A S S I O N A  
 F D I R V E T Y S C E H H R L  
 J S M Y Y D S F K I V B V F K  
 C Y U E O B U E E P A N R G N  
 Y D S O H W S D T L O I S N A  
 U M F E E D E S S E L B V D R  
 T Q M K W Y J R Q S O U O H T  
 R F U O A X Q M D J M S N Y S  
 L Q R R M R L E H N K W W C L  
 G C P B N Z T K V J A K G C H

Andrew  
 Baskets  
 Blessed  
 Boy  
 Bread  
 Broke  
 Compassion  
 Crowds  
 Disciples  
 Feed

Fish  
 Food  
 Jesus  
 Leftovers  
 Loaves  
 Lunch  
 Peter  
 Philip  
 Prayed  
 Twelve



# Answer Keys

## Fishing and Fishermen in the Bible

### A) Fill in the Blank

- 1) Nets
- 2) Dragnet
- 3) Cast net
- 4) Cast net
- 5) Lantern
- 6) Peter, Andrew
- 7) James, John
- 8) Spread, dry

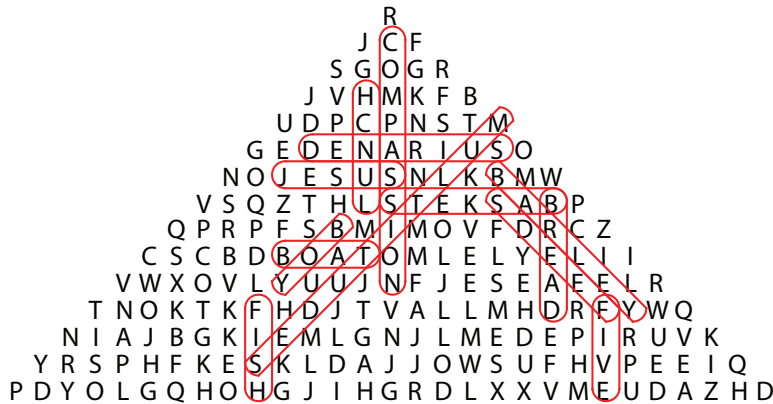
### B) True/False

- 1) False
- 2) True
- 3) False
- 4) False

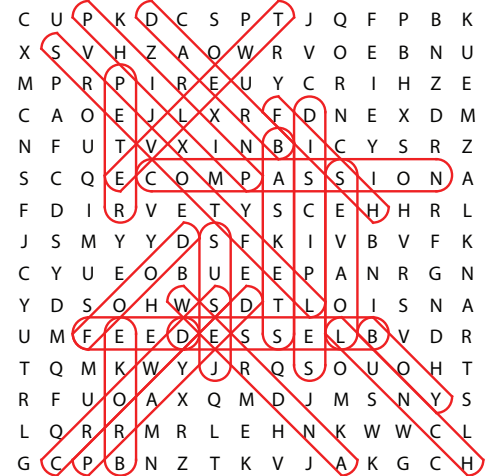
## Food in Bible Times

- 1) Hot flat stones or laid across the bottom of a large metal pan over an open fire
- 2) Wheat, Barley
- 3) Wheat
- 4) Women
- 5) Millstone
- 6) Barley
- 7) Very flat and thin
- 8) Other breads
- 9) Bread of life
- 10) Listen, believe, and obey.

## Jesus Feeds the Multitudes



## What a Picnic (3rd-4th)



## Crossword Puzzle

### Across

2. Brought boy to Jesus. (John 6:8-9) (Andrew)
4. Jesus \_\_\_ and broke the food. (Luke 9:16) (Blessed)
6. The miracle happened near the Sea of \_\_\_\_\_. (John 6:1). (Galilee)
8. Jesus told people to sit down in groups of \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:14) (Fifty)
9. To whom did Jesus say, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5) (Philip)

### Down

1. There were 12 \_\_\_ full of leftovers. (John 6:13) (Baskets)
3. The disciples wanted to send people away to buy \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:12) (Food)
4. A boy had five \_\_\_ loaves. (John 6:8-9) (Barley)
5. Many people \_\_\_ in Jesus because of His miracles. (John 6:14) (Believed)
7. Jesus had \_\_\_ on the people. (Matthew 14:14) (Compassion)
8. Everyone ate until they were \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 9:17) (Filled)

## What a Picnic (1st-2nd)

