

Lesson 27



3-7-2021

LEADER GUIDE

JESUS FEEDS 5,000

MATTHEW 14:13-21

GOAL

- ▶ **To teach children about the compassion and miraculous power of Jesus, and encourage them to act in compassion toward others and in great faith towards God.**
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CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Jesus:** He taught the people and miraculously fed them when they were hungry.

Disciples: Jesus told them to feed the hungry people despite the fact that they did not have any food.

Boy: He gave his small meal to Jesus, and Jesus turned it into a meal for thousands of people

People in the Crowd: Scripture says that 5,000 men were present, which means that if women and children had been counted, the number of those in attendance would have been much higher. They came for healing and to listen to Jesus' teaching. Jesus fed them with only five barley loaves and two fish.

MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Matthew 14:14:** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
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- ▶ **Matthew 14:14:** At this point in Scripture, Jesus had just learned that His friend John the Baptist had died, and He and His disciples were constantly being sought by thousands of people who had heard of the great works Jesus had done. He was saddened by the news and exhausted from the work. He and the disciples sailed to a desolate area to have some time to themselves, but when they reached the shore, they saw that a multitude of people were already there waiting for Jesus. Instead of pushing off and sailing somewhere else where He might have a moment of peace, He saw their need and was moved to help them. Jesus calls us to follow His example and help others, no matter what is going on in our own lives.



OVERVIEW

Read Matthew 14:13-21: A crowd of people hoping that Jesus would heal their sick loved one followed Jesus to where He was. As Jesus healed the sick and taught the crowd of people, it grew late. The disciples realized that they were pretty much out in the middle of nowhere, and the people must be getting hungry. They asked Jesus to tell the people to leave so they could find food in nearby villages, but Jesus told the disciples to feed all of the people there. The only food they could find was five loaves of barley bread and two fish given to them by a boy, nowhere nearly enough food for a crowd of well over 5,000 people. Jesus took the loaves and fish, thanked God for it, and gave it to the disciples to distribute to everyone there. After everyone ate enough food to make them full, there were 12 baskets of leftover food.

SUGGESTIONS

Scripture informs us that the crowd was made up of 5,000 men, but women and children were also present. Some people estimate that the number of people fed was as high as 15,000 or more.

This miracle demonstrates a couple of important concepts:

1. Recognition: Out in the middle of nowhere, the disciples' idea of a solution to feeding thousands of people was to send them away into the nearby villages to find food. When Jesus told them to feed all of the people, they again leaned on their own understanding of accomplishing such tasks and quickly became discouraged. They were right in that five loaves and two fish is not enough food to feed more than 5,000 people when using our own human ability—but that amount of food was more than enough for Jesus. If they had recognized and relied on Jesus' power, they could have avoided the frustration they felt at first and instead, sat back as they watched a miracle unfold.

2. Offering: God doesn't need us to accomplish his goals on Earth, but despite our failings, He uses us to show His glory. When the Israelites wandered the desert for 40 years, God gave the people manna to eat. Jesus didn't need these little loaves and dried fish to feed everyone. He wants us to participate—He wants us to experience the blessing of glorifying God.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What types of people came to hear Jesus teach?

A1: People from all social classes and cultures, including Jews and Gentiles

Q1b: Who is your favorite teacher in school?

TN: Ask students why they like this teacher so much. People loved to hear Jesus teach because He was able to relate very complicated concepts in a way that everyone could understand.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did Jesus command the disciples to do?

A2: He told them to feed the people.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What food did the boy offer?

A3: Five barley loaves and two fish

Q3b: Have you ever shared your lunch with someone?

TN: The food this boy had with him was enough to feed him, but it certainly wasn't enough to feed all the people who had come to see Jesus that day. Knowing it wasn't enough to feed everyone, he could have kept it to ensure that he was well fed, but he gave it anyway, hoping it would help. Sometimes we may not feel like we have anything to offer, but God can do so much with us. Remember, God doesn't need us to carry out His will. Jesus could have commanded food to miraculously appear, but instead he let a boy show his faith and that He trusted Jesus to provide. It offered Jesus an opportunity to glorify God and demonstrate His power.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did Jesus do first with the loaves and fish?

A4: He thanked God for the food.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: How did Jesus' lessons help the disciples?

A5: The lessons helped the disciples to strengthen their faith.

Q5b: What miracle would you like to have witnessed Jesus perform?

TN: While on Earth, Jesus performed many miracles, such as turning water into wine, healing sick people, and walking on water.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: After everyone had been fed, how many baskets of food were left over?

A6: 12 baskets



MEMORY
VERSE

- ▶ **Matthew 14:14:** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

BIG IDEA

- ▶ With Jesus, who is all-powerful, everything is possible.

CLOSING
PRAYER

- ▶ Dear God, You're amazing! You fed thousands of people, making food out of nothing! You showed us that You know our needs and take care of us. Please help us to turn to you when we need help because you are able to provide. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

JESUS FEEDS 5000

CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY

Across

2. How many extra baskets of food were there? (**Twelve**)
4. Jesus proved that with God, nothing is (**Impossible**).
5. The disciples organized the people and had them (**Sit**) down for a meal.
8. After everyone was full, the disciples collected the (**Leftovers**).

Down

1. There were 5000 men, plus (**Women**) and children, who came to hear Jesus speak.
2. One day as Jesus was teaching, (**Thousands**) of people came to hear him speak.
3. After Jesus gave thanks for the food, God (**Multiplied**) it to be enough to feed everyone.
6. A young boy had five (**Barley**) loaves and two fish.
7. Jesus asked the disciples to find the people something to (**Eat**).

JESUS FEEDS 5000

Mark 10:27

All things are possible with God.



Family Devotional



UNLOCK
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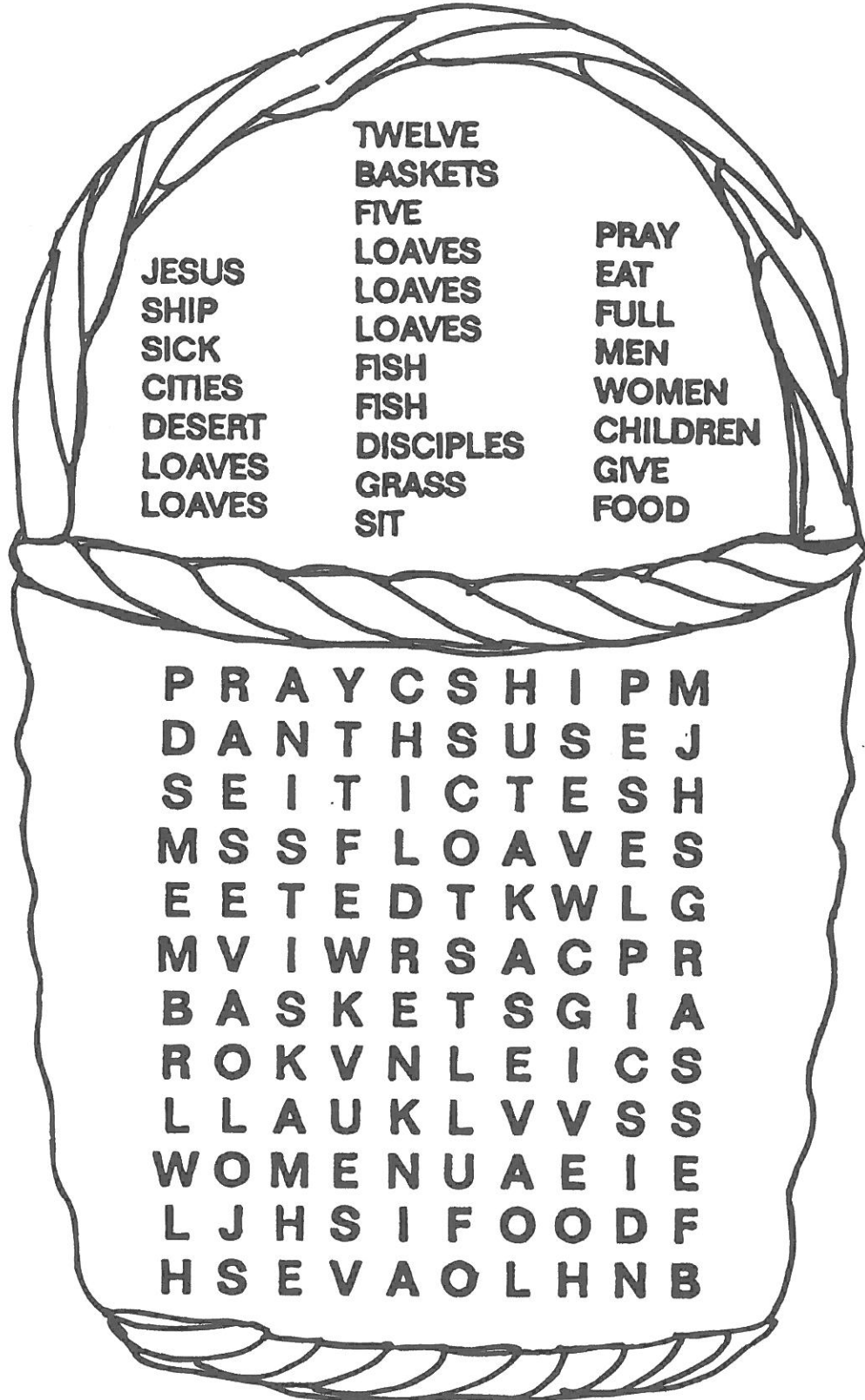
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Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus fed over five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Some words from this story are hidden in the basket. Try to find all the words listed below.



JESUS FEEDS 5000

Matthew 14:14

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.



Family Devotional



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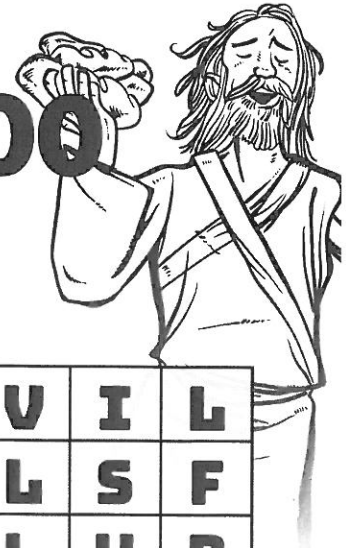
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JESUS FEEDS 5000

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



JESUS FEEDS 5000



Discover the hidden words.

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

Word Bank

FOOD

BASKETS

TWELVE

JESUS

GOD

DISCIPLES

LEFTOVERS

BARLEY

BREAD

EAT

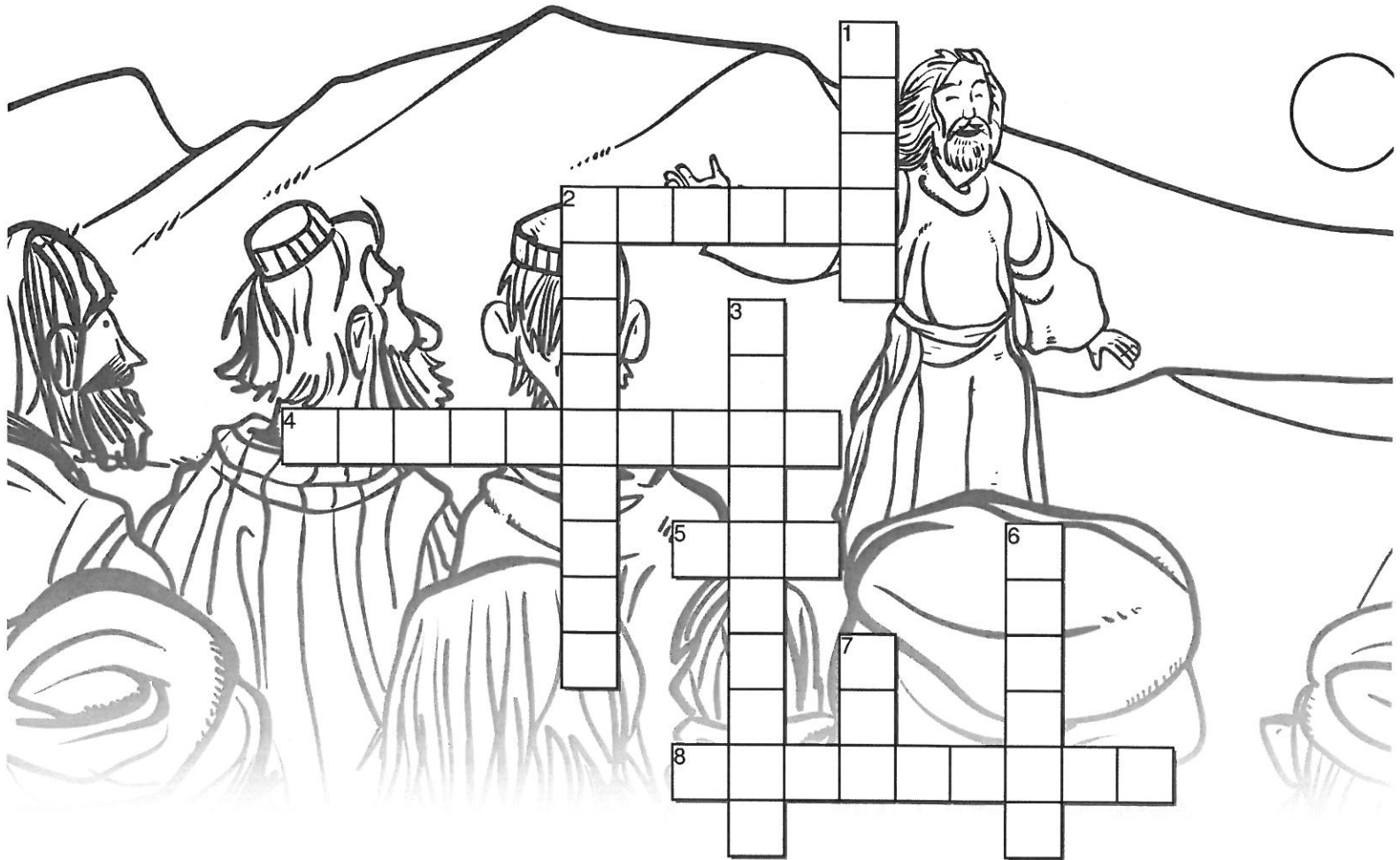
FISH

TEACHING



JESUS FEEDS 5000

Matthew 14:13-21



Across

2. How many extra baskets of food were there?
4. Jesus proved that with God, nothing is _____.
5. The disciples organized the people and had them _____ down for a meal.
8. After everyone was full, the disciples collected the _____.

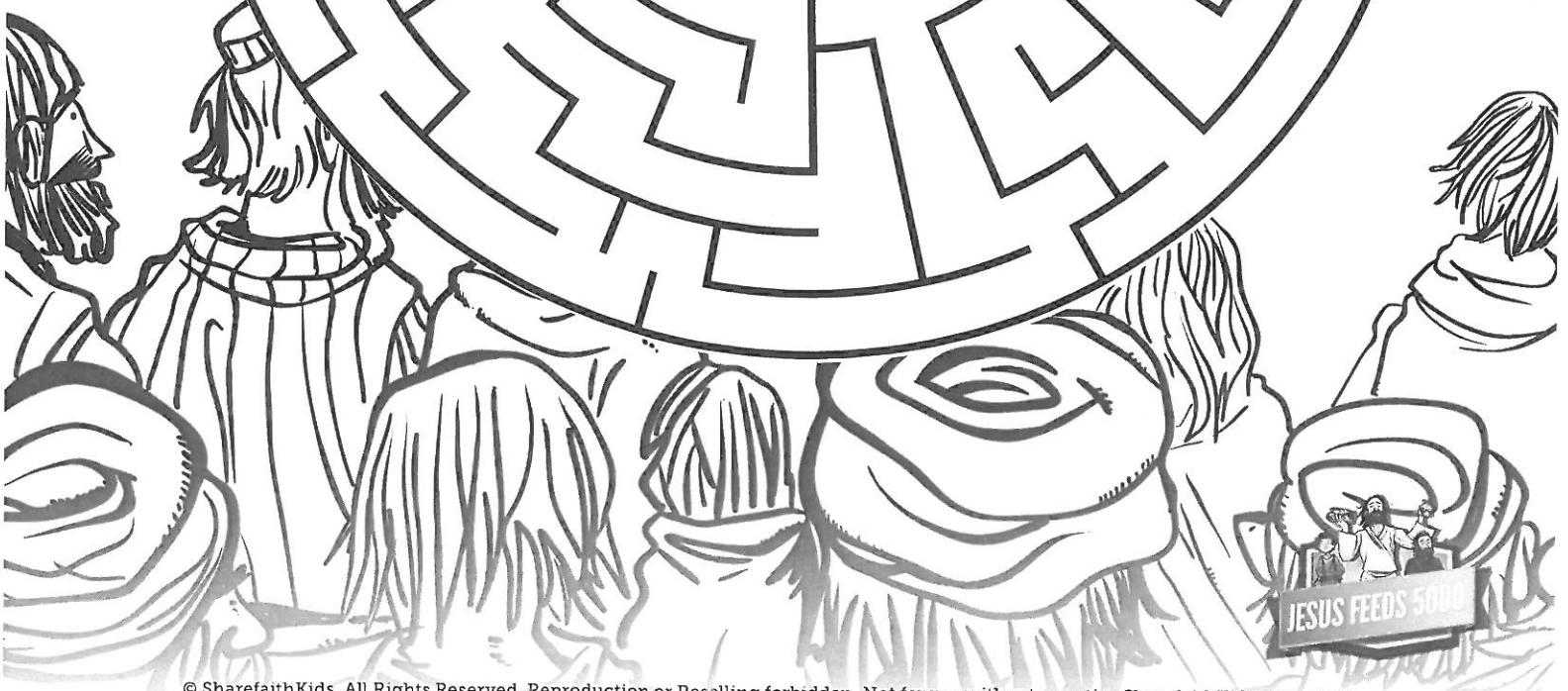
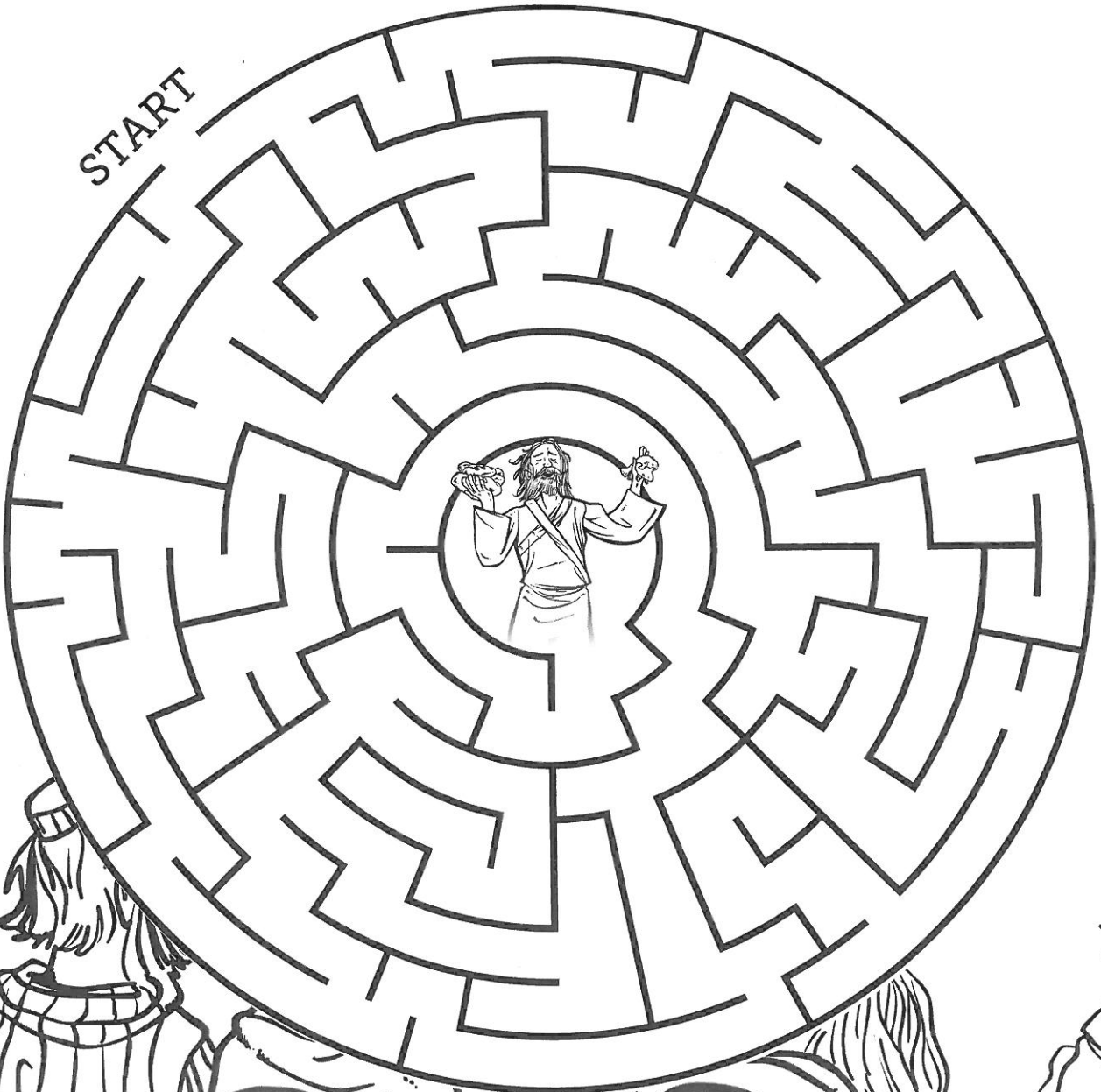
Down

1. There were 5000 men, plus _____ and children, who came to hear Jesus speak.
2. One day as Jesus was teaching, _____ of people came to hear him speak.
3. After Jesus gave thanks for the food, God _____ it to be enough to feed everyone.
6. A young boy had five _____ loaves and two fish.
7. Jesus asked the disciples to find the people something to _____.



JESUS FEEDS 5000

Help Jesus and his Disciples pass out all the food.



What's for Lunch?

Read the story of the boy who gave his lunch away XXXXXXXXXXXX.
Then make a picture of that lunch by coloring the Y spaces yellow and the B spaces brown. You may color the leftover spaces with your favorite color.

