Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Craft

Paper plate basket with five loaves and two fish · John 6:1–14 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished

Easy and medium

Harder

Both are a paper plate with a green grass rim and a paper basket glued on as a pocket, holding five barley loaves and two small fish. On the left is the medium level with the colored basket from page 2. On the right is the harder level, where kids weave four paper strips through the basket from page 3.

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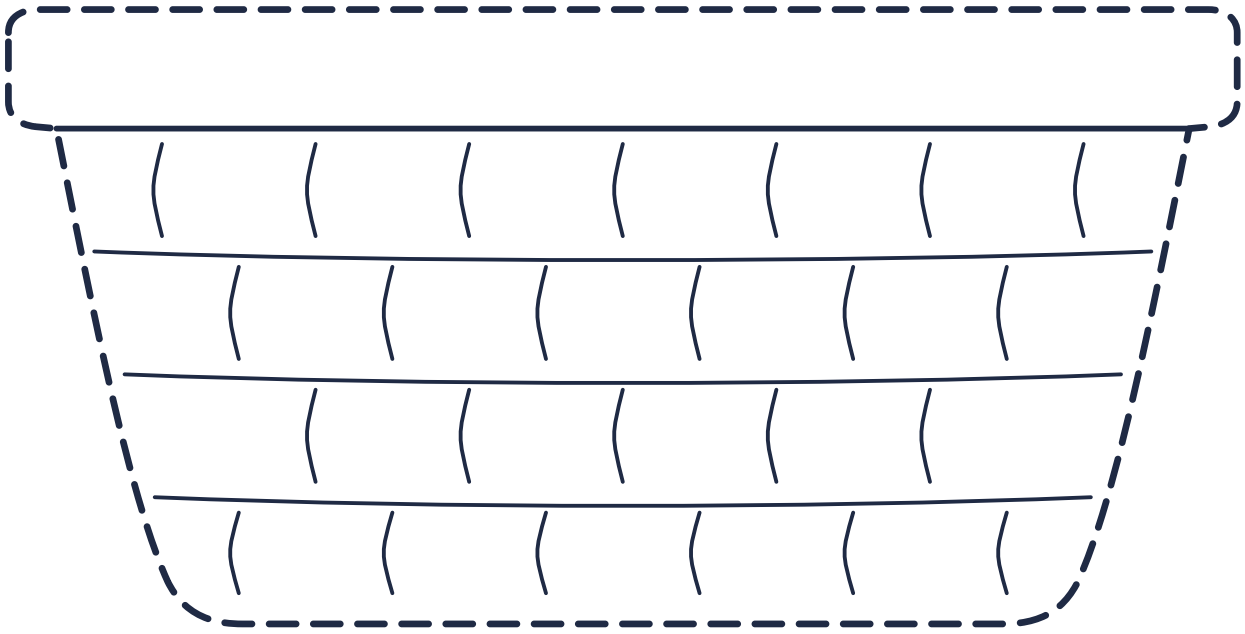
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Glue the basket on the plate by its sides and bottom. Leave the top open.

5 barley loaves

2 small fish

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19 (KJV)

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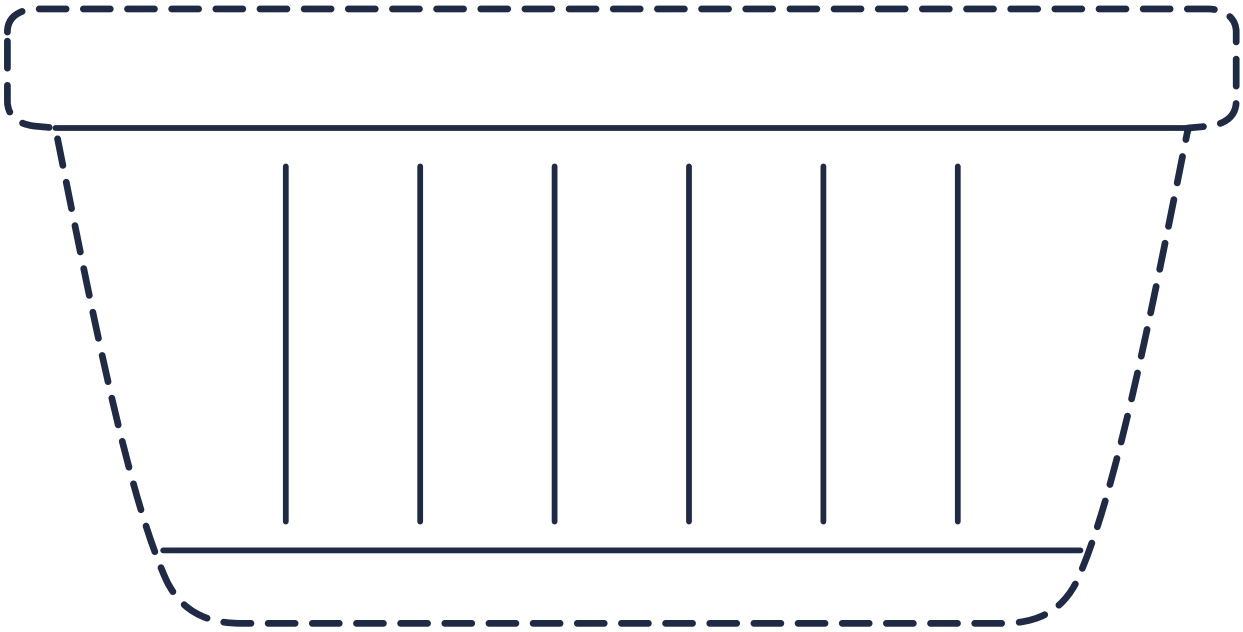
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines

Weaving basket (harder level)

Use this basket instead of the basket on page 2. Cut on the dashed lines.
Then cut the six solid slits inside the basket (see the steps below).



Fold the basket in half, top to bottom, and snip each solid slit from the fold. Open it up.
Weave each strip over and under the slits. Trim the ends and glue them on the back.

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/feeding-the-5000-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: one plain white paper plate per child (9 inch, uncoated, so the glue stick holds), page 2 printed once per child, crayons or markers (green, brown, golden tan, blue-gray), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a yellow crayon or marker.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the baskets, loaves, fish and verse strips ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's basket, five loaves, two fish and verse strip. Kids color the plate rim green and color the pieces. Rub glue on the back of the basket for them (sides and bottom only); they press it onto the plate and count the loaves and fish into it. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color the plate rim, color and cut out the basket, loaves and fish, glue the basket on as a pocket, fill it and glue the verse strip on the back. This is the craft on the left in the photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** use the weaving basket on page 3 instead of the basket on page 2. Kids color the basket brown and the four weaving strips yellow and cut them out. They fold the basket in half from top to bottom, snip each of the six solid slits from the fold and open it. They weave each strip over and under, starting each strip the opposite way from the one above it, then trim the ends and glue them on the back. Then they color the plate rim, color and cut out the loaves and fish from page 2, and follow steps 4 to 7 below with the woven basket. They say Philippians 4:19 from memory. This is the craft on the right in the photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Grass:** color the rim of the paper plate green, like the grass where the people sat down (John 6:10).
2. **Color:** color the basket brown, the five loaves golden tan and the two fish blue-gray.
3. **Cut:** cut out the basket, the five loaves, the two fish and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Glue:** turn the basket over. Rub glue along the left side, the right side and the bottom edge. Do not put glue on the top edge.
5. **Press:** press the basket onto the bottom half of the plate, with the open top edge toward the middle. Hold it while you count to ten.
6. **Fill:** count the five loaves and two fish out loud as you put them in the basket (John 6:9). Put a dab of glue on the bottom of each one and tuck it into the top of the basket, so the top half sticks up above the rim.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the plate and read it together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- A lad had five barley loaves and two small fishes, and Andrew asked, "What are they among so many?" (John 6:9). Can you count the food in your basket?
- Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks before He handed them out (John 6:11). What can you thank God for today?
- When everyone had eaten as much as they wanted, the disciples filled twelve baskets with the leftovers (John 6:12–13). How many baskets would we need to hold that much bread?
- God gives us what we need (Philippians 4:19). What is something small you could share this week?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** lad = boy, fishes = fish, supply = give, riches in glory = God has more than enough.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **The pocket:** if a basket comes loose, add a little more glue along the bottom edge and press for another count of ten. Keep glue off the top edge so the loaves and fish can be tucked in.
- **Weaving (harder level):** show kids how to start the first strip "over, under, over" and the next strip "under, over, under." Push each strip up snug against the one above it.
- **Retell the story:** send the plate home and ask kids to count the loaves and fish for their family and tell what Jesus did with them.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/feeding-the-5000.

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