



June's B.I.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

June's Bible Verse

Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe. Psalm 150:2, CEV

June's B.i.G. Theme

Great Are the Works of the Lord

Lesson 3 ★ The Boy's Lunch

Today's Bible Story

John 6:1-14

Objectives

- ★ Children will connect with the biblical story of Jesus feeding the five thousand.
- ★ Children will recognize that, through this act, Jesus helped the people understand just how powerful God really is and how God truly cared for their needs.

Jesus traveled the countryside, teaching people as he went. Often, great crowds would follow along, wanting to hear more of what he had to teach them. Today's story occurs on one of these journeys. Jesus had been teaching for quite a while, and he knew people would be getting hungry. Rather than sending them away to get something to eat, he asked his disciples what they had handy to feed the crowd. This is where our story gets interesting. All they could find was five small loaves of barley bread and two small fish. And these both came from a boy.

Children, who are often dependent upon adults to provide for them, delight in being able to solve a problem, end a conflict, or save a situation by helping someone out of trouble. It is easy for children to identify the nameless boy in our story as a hero of sorts by offering to share his meager meal with others. It is the addition of Jesus' miracle that takes a generous offering and multiplies it many times over to feed a great multitude. Bread has always been a staple food in nearly every culture since the beginning of human civilization. It was usually made fresh each day and offered to strangers passing through as

an act of hospitality. Over one thousand years earlier, God offered another miracle by feeding the people bread from heaven in the form of manna (Exodus 16:1-35). People who witnessed Jesus' miracle may have been reminded of that earlier miracle. This story is the fourth of seven miracles that point to Jesus as the Messiah.

As you prepare today's lesson, remember that bread was necessary to the health and life of people. Think about what it means to be hungry today. Food in our country is relatively plentiful, yet there are people who are still hungry. Perhaps we are still in need of miracles. It is bread that Jesus offers the people, just as it is bread that he takes from the table and offers to the disciples as a remembrance of his body.

Have the children smell the bread that you bring in for them to taste. Invite them to look at it closely and feel the texture with their fingers. Today we learn about the miracle that began with a child's choosing to share his meal. Help the children remember that when we also choose to share what we have, miracles can and do happen.

Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Lunchbox Word Search ✓

Fish Mates ✓

Gather Them Up ✓

Basket-Weave Place Mats

. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

News at 11 / At The Station ✓

Multiply the Story

Feeding Frenzy

. . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Shared Bead Necklace ✓

Go on a Picnic

Closing Worship ✓



TimeSaver

Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



EcoFriendly

Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

DVD Summary: The Station

When a rainstorm hits, The Station kids have to move their picnic inside. The only food that survives is a bag of chips. But Ana has things under control. She brings out sub sandwiches, hot dogs, chocolate cake, and lots of other food, turning a rained-out picnic into a festive affair. Ana reminds your children about the small boy in the Bible, who shared his food with a group of hungry people. Although it was a small lunch, Jesus turned it into more than enough.

LIVE BIG

The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Lunchbox Word Search



Supplies: Leader—page 45, pencils

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Lunchbox Word Search” (**Leader—page 45**) for each child.

Do ★ **Say:** Today we’re going to learn about another miracle that Jesus performed. Who remembers what miracle Jesus performed in our story two weeks ago? (*He healed the man beside the pool.*) Today Jesus is going to perform a miracle that involves food. See if you can find some of the words from our story in the word search.

- ★ Encourage the children to find the words in the word search (**Leader—page 45**), helping one another as needed.

Live B.i.G. We can help one another complete tasks that would be more difficult when done alone.

Fish Mates



Supplies: Leader—page 47, crayons

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Fish Mates” (**Leader—page 47**) for each child.

Do ★ **Say:** In today’s story, we’re going to learn about a boy who shared his lunch. What that boy had for lunch was fish and bread. See if you can find the fish/sea creatures that match. Connect those and then color them so they match. Each fish/sea creature has a match, making two just like the boy in today’s story had.

- ★ Encourage the children to draw a line connecting the matching fish/sea creatures, then have them color all of them (**Leader—page 47**).

Live B.i.G. We can share what God has given us.

Invite them in . . .

Gather Them Up



Supplies: Leader—page 46, card stock, scissors, colored pencils

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Fishy Leftovers” (Leader—page 46) for each child onto card stock.
- ★ Make a sample to demonstrate how to play the game.

- Do**
- ★ Allow each child to color and cut out the fish on his or her page.
 - ★ Have each child cut out the gameboard and color it, if he or she wishes.
 - ★ To play the game, have the child place a fish on every space, except one. It does not matter which space is left blank.
 - ★ Have him or her jump one fish over another, making it land on an empty space. Have the child remove the fish after it has been jumped.
 - ★ Have the child count the number of fish left on the gameboard. The lower the number, the better the score.

Live B.i.G. We should take good care of what God provides for us.

Basket-Weave Place Mats



Supplies: 11-by-17 construction paper or colored copy paper, scissors, ruler, tape or gluesticks, markers or crayons

Prepare

- ★ Read through the instructions below and make a sample place mat.

- Do**
- ★ Have the children lay one sheet of 11-by-17 paper in front of them, like a place mat.
 - ★ Have them fold the paper in half to make an 11-by-8½ rectangle.
 - ★ Have them draw vertical lines approximately one inch apart from the folded edge to about one inch before the opposite edge. Have them cut along the lines, then unfold the paper.
 - ★ Cut strips of paper, 1-by-11, from other colors of construction paper.
 - ★ Have the children weave the strips of paper into the large piece of paper, being sure to alternate the beginning of each strip from the front and from the back. Have them push each strip up next to the previously woven strip.
 - ★ Have the children secure each strip of woven paper using glue or tape. Trim the woven edges to make the edges of the place mat even, if necessary.
 - ★ Across the center of the place mat, have them write the words, “God loves you.”
 - ★ **Say:** Take this place mat home and, every time you use it, remember that God loves you.
 - ★ Let the children make multiple place mats for their family members and friends.

Consider covering the place mats with contact paper to make them more durable.



Live B.i.G. We can help other people know that God loves them when we show care for them.

LIVE BIG

The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

News at 11 / At The Station



Supplies: Leader—page 44, DVD, DVD player, television

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy **Leader—page 44** for each child.
- ★ Preview **The Station (DVD)**.

Do

- ★ Invite confident readers to be the Reporter, Disciples 1 and 2, the Old Man, the Small Boy, and Jesus.
- ★ One reader can take more than one part, if necessary.
- ★ Have the children act out the story using the script (**Leader—page 44**).
- ★ **Say:** Imagine being there and witnessing this miracle. How would you feel if it were your lunch that was shared with all those people? Let's watch Ana and the kids at The Station as they figure out how to share what they have with each other.
- ★ Watch **The Station (DVD)**.
- ★ **Ask:** What examples of sharing did you see? (*Luke shared the potato chips; Ana shared many dishes that she'd made.*) Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone shared as generously as Ana did?

Live B.i.G. Sharing even the smallest thing can make a big difference for someone. If everyone would share what God has provided, everyone would have what he or she needed.

Multiply the Story



Supplies: Leader—pages 174-175; card stock; one strip of 3-by-14 paper (for bread), one strip of 2-by-15 paper (for fish), and one strip of 4-by-15 paper (for person) for each child; scissors; pencils; markers

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy "Multiply the Story" (**Leader—pages 174-175**) onto card stock for each child to have one bread, one fish, and one people pattern.
- ★ Cut out the patterns. Make a sample of each, using the following directions.

[Adapted from *PowerXpress!™: The Boy's Lunch (Feeding the 5000)*, pages 19-20. © 2002 Abingdon Press.]

- Do** ★ **Ask:** How many people were in the crowd in today's story? (*five thousand*)
- ★ Compare this number to something the children know. For example, you might say that five thousand is twice the size of your congregation, or the sports stadium holds one thousand people.
 - ★ Give each child a strip of 4-by-15 paper.
 - ★ Show them how to accordion-fold the paper so they have a 4-by-3 rectangle.
 - ★ Give each child a person pattern.
 - ★ Have the children put the pattern on top of the paper, aligning one side with the fold, and trace around the pattern.
 - ★ Have the children cut out the person, being careful to not completely cut the pattern aligned with the fold, and open their chain.
 - ★ Place all the children's people chains together to represent the crowd of people.
 - ★ Have them repeat with the bread pattern (folding to a 3-by-2 rectangle) on the 3-by-14 paper, and the fish pattern (folding to a 2-by-3 rectangle) on the 2-by-15 strip of paper.
 - ★ **Say:** See how the bread and fish multiplied?!
 - ★ Let the children decorate the paper chains.
 - ★ Encourage the children to retell the Bible story with their paper chains.

Live B.i.G. Children will see the bread and fish multiplied, just as they were multiplied in today's Bible story.

Feeding Frenzy



Supplies: shallow rectangular laundry basket, carton of fish-shaped crackers, bag of bagels, masking tape, paper towels or napkins, timer

Prepare

- ★ Arrange the furniture or other objects in your room to make a simple obstacle course. The students will maneuver through the course with the basket balanced on top of their heads, so set it up with this in mind.

- Do** ★ Divide the children into groups of four.
- ★ Show the children the starting point for the obstacle course and the laundry basket containing the carton of fish-shaped crackers and bag of bagels.
 - ★ **Say:** Each group will work together to balance the basket on their heads—no hands allowed!—and move together through the obstacle course to the other end. The team that completes the course the fastest, wins.
 - ★ Have the groups do the course one at a time while the others cheer them on from the sidelines.
 - ★ Time each group and announce the winner.
 - ★ **Ask:** What was easy about this game? What was hard about it? In the Bible story, how did Jesus show all those people that God cared for them? How has God taken care of you?

Live B.i.G. We can trust God to take care of us all the time.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Shared Bead Necklace



Supplies: scraps of wallpaper, magazine pictures, used wrapping paper, or colored paper; pencils; rulers; scissors; paste; drinking straws; thread or yarn

Prepare

- ★ Gather all supplies and read the instructions below from start to finish before the children arrive.
- ★ Make a template of a triangle half an inch wide and 2½ inches long for each child.

Do

- ★ Each child can choose a particular wrapping paper, wallpaper, magazine, or other colored paper with which to work. This will become that child's signature bead.
- ★ With scissors, have the children cut long triangles from paper scraps that are about half an inch wide and 2½ inches long.
- ★ Have them cover the backside of a triangle with paste.
- ★ Have them place the triangle's glued short side on a drinking straw.
- ★ Have the children wrap the paper completely around itself on the straw.
- ★ Have them cut away the straw at both ends of the rolled paper.
- ★ Each child should make as many beads as there are students in the class. Let the beads dry.
- ★ **Say:** Jesus asked the boy to share his lunch so others could be fed. We can also share with others.
- ★ Have the children place their beads at their workspace. Invite the children to go around the room and take one bead from each place until they have one bead that was made by everyone else in the class.
- ★ Have the children string the beads together on the thread or yarn. Have them knot the ends of the thread together to make a necklace.

Live B.i.G. Jesus teaches people to share what they have so that everyone will be blessed.

Into Life

Go on a Picnic



Supplies: picnic basket, blankets or beach towels, fish-shaped crackers, bagels, gallon of water, cups

Prepare

- ★ Place the fish-shaped crackers and bagels in the picnic basket after you use them for “Feeding Frenzy” (see page 41).
- ★ Find an area of grass where your children can sit to share the snack.

Do ★ **Say:** When Jesus taught the people, they often sat outside. Jesus would probably stand at the bottom of a hill, and the people would sit on the hill so they could all see and hear him speak. The Bible says that people sat in a large grassy area in today’s story. Let’s go outside and find some grass to sit on as we share a snack.

- ★ Take the children outside to the place you have determined.
- ★ Let the children sit on the blankets or towels you have brought.
- ★ Have the children share the fish-shaped crackers and bagels with one another.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to share with others.

Closing Worship



Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television, offering basket, small slips of paper, pencils, crayons

Prepare

- ★ Preview The B.I.G. Sound (DVD).

- Do** ★ Invite the children into the worship center. Have them find a comfortable place to sit.
- ★ **Ask:** How many of you share with other members of your family? How do you feel when someone shares with you? (*Allow time for everyone to share his or her feelings and ideas.*) What kinds of things can be shared? Can love be shared? Can time be shared?
 - ★ Provide the children with a small slip of paper and a choice of pencil or crayons.
 - ★ Have them think of what they have that they could share with someone else. Invite them to write or draw that idea on the paper.
 - ★ Play The B.I.G. Sound (DVD) while the children write or draw.
 - ★ **Say:** When we share with others, it pleases God. When the offering basket comes to you, place your sharing slip in the basket. In this way, you offer what you have to share to God.
 - ★ **Pray:** God, you have given us so much. We thank you that we can share with others. Please help us be mindful to share this week. Amen.
 - ★ Repeat the words of Psalm 150:2, CEV, together.
 - ★ Play the song again, this time inviting the children to sing along.

Live B.i.G. Sharing is giving, and giving is an act of worship. By sharing, we worship God.

News at 11: Free Meal for Five Thousand

Reporter: Hello, out there in TV land. A story just in is quite astounding. It seems a teacher named Jesus from a small town of Nazareth has accomplished quite a task. A large crowd had gathered to hear from this teacher, Jesus. The day grew long, and no one had set up booths to feed these people. Here is a disciple of this man, Jesus. Can you tell us about the lack of food?

Disciple 1: Yes; it all happened rather suddenly. We were walking along, and more and more people kept following us. After a while, Jesus decided to settle everyone down on the grass and teach them a lesson.

Disciple 2: That's right. After teaching them quite a while, we all noticed that the sun was getting lower and realized that since we had made no plan to feed all these people, they should be sent home.

Old Man: (interrupting) But we wanted to hear more lessons from Jesus! I'm not going anywhere!

Disciple 2: No one is sending you home. Jesus told us to ask if anyone brought any food with them today. So we asked around.

Reporter: Here is a small boy seen talking to the disciples. What did they ask you?

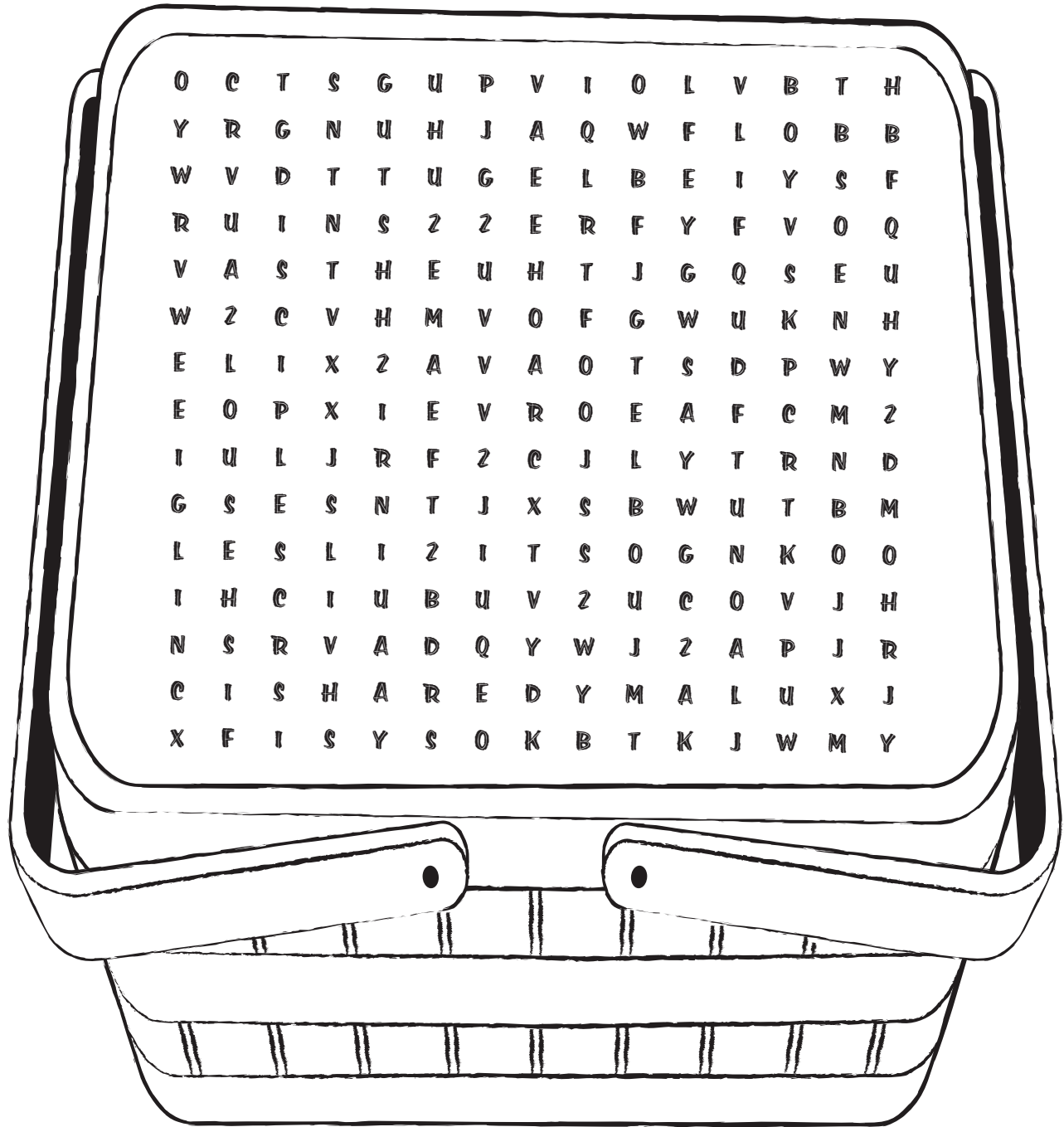
Small Boy: They saw my basket and asked if I had food. I said my mother packed me five barley loaves and two small fish to keep me from getting hungry. So I said I would share what I had, if it would help.

Reporter: And it did help, indeed. Jesus divided those loaves and fish into enough for every person here to eat until they were full. After clearing away the leftovers, there were twelve entire baskets of food left! Can you get a picture of all this? Oh, here is the man himself. Jesus, can you tell us how this was done?

Jesus: My Father provides food for all who are hungry.

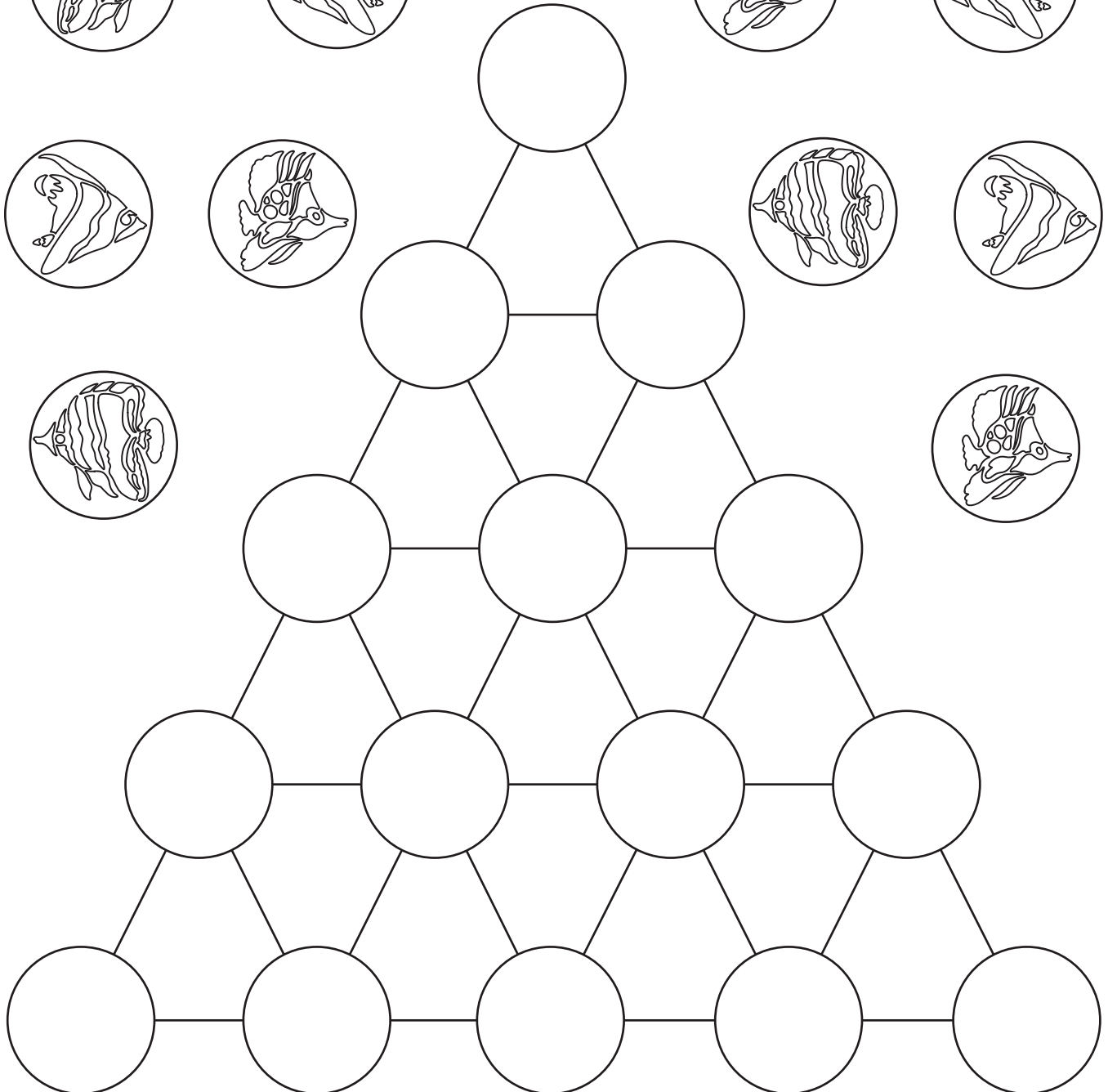
Reporter: Surely this man is a prophet of God! It certainly is a fishy tale that had extraordinary results. We will be back next time for more news from Galilee.

Lunchbox Word Search



- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| BOY | TWO | FISHES |
| FIVE | DISCIPLES | JESUS |
| LEFTOVERS | HUNGRY | SHARE |
| | LOAVES | |

Fishy Leftovers



Fish Mates

