

CREATE

Paper Plate Fish

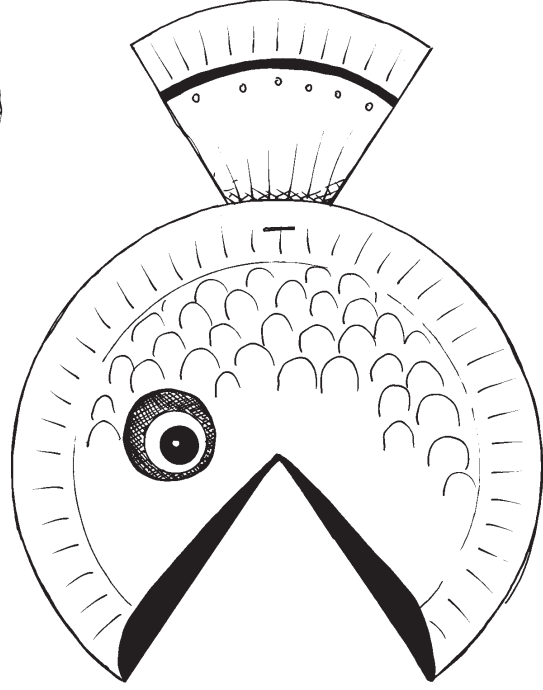
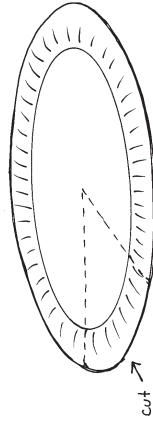
A small gift of sharing can become a big gift of God's love.

Make a paper plate fish as a reminder of the gift the child shared, that became a big gift of love and care.

You will need a paper plate, scissors, stapler, felt markers or crayons, decorative materials (such as glitter, cellophane, scraps of construction paper, and so on).

Instructions

1. Mark a triangle on a paper plate and cut it out. (See illustration.)
2. Staple the triangle to the plate to form the tail.
3. Decorate the fish with felt markers, glitter, cellophane pieces, construction paper, shapes, and so on.



A Marvellous Picnic

Based on John 6:1-14

One day, Jesus and his friends were resting on a hillside. Soon a big crowd of people gathered – lots and lots and lots of people. There were tall and short people, young and old people, stout and thin people. They had all come to see Jesus. They wanted to hear Jesus talk about God's love. The people became so interested in what Jesus was saying; they forgot that they hadn't eaten for a long time.

Jesus knew the people were hungry. "Where can we buy some food for all these people?" Jesus asked his friends.

"We don't have enough money to buy food for everyone!" one of Jesus' friends said. "There are too many people."

Just then, another friend said, "Look, there is a child who has brought a lunch. I wonder how much food is in that basket?"

The little child held out the small basket of food to Jesus. Jesus looked in the basket.

"That's 1, 2 fish and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 loaves of bread," Jesus' friends counted.

"But that's not enough food for everyone."

Jesus smiled, took the little child's basket and said, "Please, everyone, sit down."

STORY TIME

"Sit down," said the short people to the tall people.

"Sit down," said the young people to the old people.

"Sit down," said the thin people to the stout people.

Everyone sat down. Everyone waited. Jesus took the bread and fish from the basket and said thank you to God. Then Jesus began to break the bread and fish into pieces. And the most surprising thing happened! Soon there were hundreds and hundreds of pieces of bread and fish!

There was enough food for all the tall people and short people.

There was enough food for all the old people and young people.

There was enough food for all the stout people and thin people.

There was enough food for all those hungry people! In fact, there was more than enough. There was still food to fill twelve more baskets after everyone had eaten!

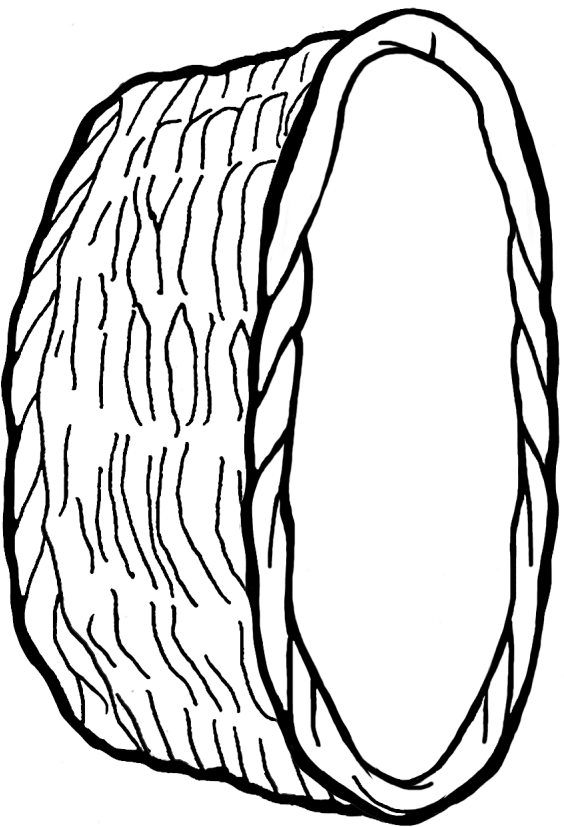
Soon people began to walk home. Short people, tall people, young people, old people, thin people, stout people. They all had full tummies and happy hearts.

This would be a very special day to remember. And it was all because one little child shared. That small gift of sharing became such a big gift of God's love!



ACTIVITY

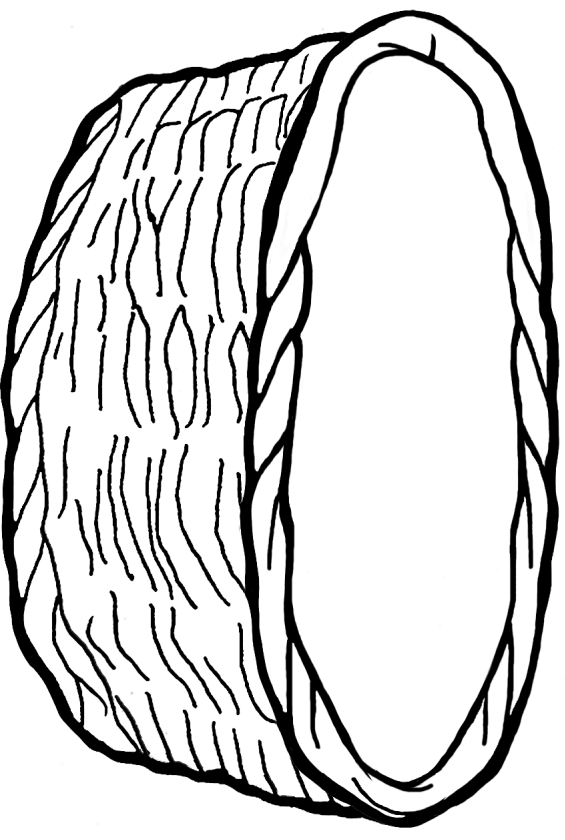
In this basket, draw the five loaves and two fish that were shared.



Sharing

In today's story, a young child shares five loaves of bread and two fish with Jesus and a crowd of people.

In this basket, draw what you would bring to share with friends.



For older children Think about ways you can share some of what you have with people in need. Around this page, or in the basket above, write your list. This might include food, clothing, books, volunteering.

