



BACKGROUND

The sixth chapter in the Gospel of John is all about the Eucharist! It begins with the miracle of the 'Feeding of the 5000', which creates a catalyst for Jesus to teach the truth of who he is. Jesus says, 'I am the bread of life'. 'Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' He even goes on to tell them:

I tell you for certain that you won't live unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man. But if you do eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will have eternal life, and I will raise you to life on the last day. My flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. If you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you are one with me, and I am one with you.

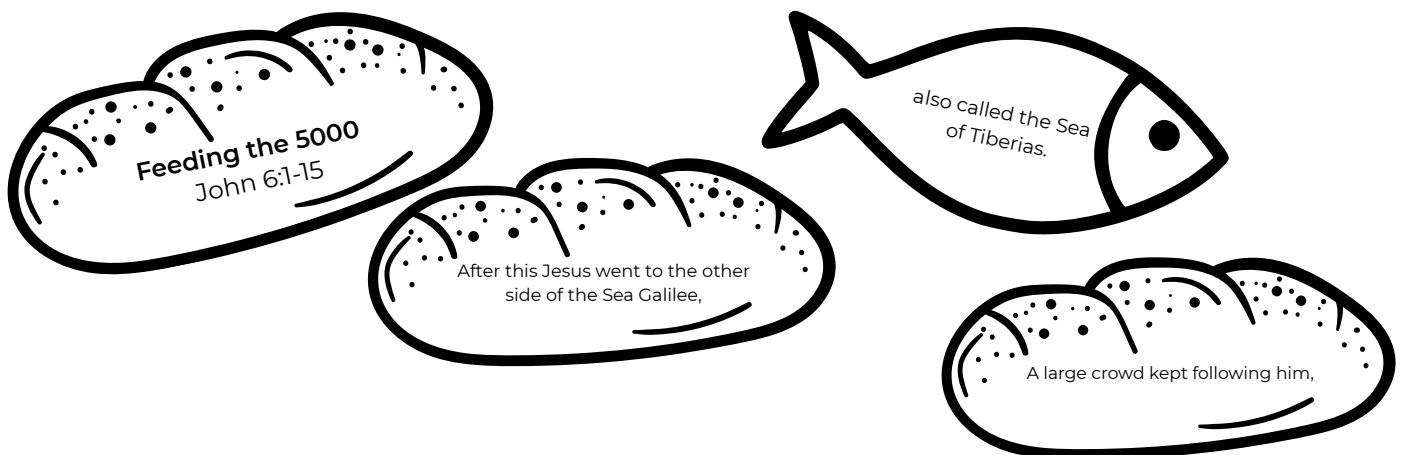
The living Father sent me, and I have life because of him. Now everyone who eats my flesh will live because of me. The bread that comes down from heaven isn't like what your ancestors ate. They died, but whoever eats this bread will live forever (John 6:53-58).

So, in the miracle of the 'Feeding of the 5000', Jesus is offering a foretaste of what is to come. There are a couple of scripture clues that stand out in particular. Firstly, Jesus goes 'up the mountain' (John 6:3), a sign that something amazing is about to happen! Secondly, John 6:4 tells us that 'the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near'. This reminds us of the Jews great exodus from Egypt and connects the words and actions of Jesus to their experience of being saved. These clues tell us that this miracle is about more than feeding the people with ordinary bread, it prefigures Jesus' sacrifice when he gives himself as the living bread.

INTRODUCTION

In this activity, the children will become more familiar with the story and have an opportunity to unpack it further through discussion as a group.

Begin by reading the scripture in its entirety, then distribute the story cards and have the children work together to sort the cards into the correct order, either by laying them out on the floor or putting them up on the wall. Once the cards are in order, read the story again using the cards. Then debrief the scripture, using the suggested questions.





FEEDING OF THE 5000 - John 6:1-15

Jesus crossed Lake Galilee, which was also known as Lake Tiberias. A large crowd had seen him work miracles to heal the sick, and those people went with him. It was almost time for the Jewish festival of Passover, and Jesus went up on a mountain with his disciples and sat down. When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?" He said this to test Philip, since he already knew what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages just to buy only a little bread for each of these people?"

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples. He spoke up and said, "There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?"

The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to tell everyone to sit down. About 5,000 men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted. The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves. After the people had seen Jesus work this miracle, they began saying, "This must be the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Jesus realized that they would try to force him to be their king. So he went up on a mountain, where he could be alone.

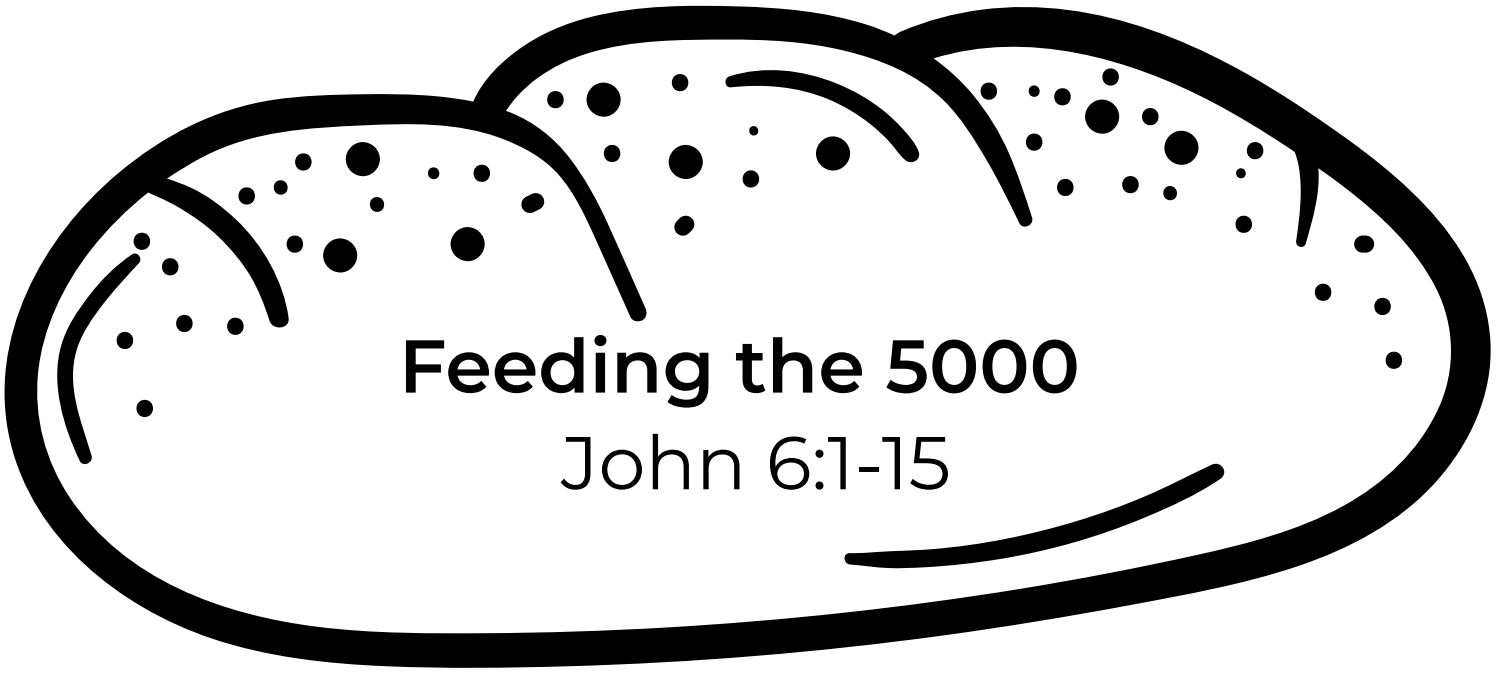
DEBRIEF

- What part of the story did you like the most? Why?
- Why do you think the boy shared his lunch with Jesus?
- How do you think the people felt when they saw the miracle happen?
- What does this story teach us about sharing and helping others?
- How is this story connected to the Eucharist?
- Can you think of a time when something small you did made a big difference?
- What can we offer to Jesus today, even if it feels small?

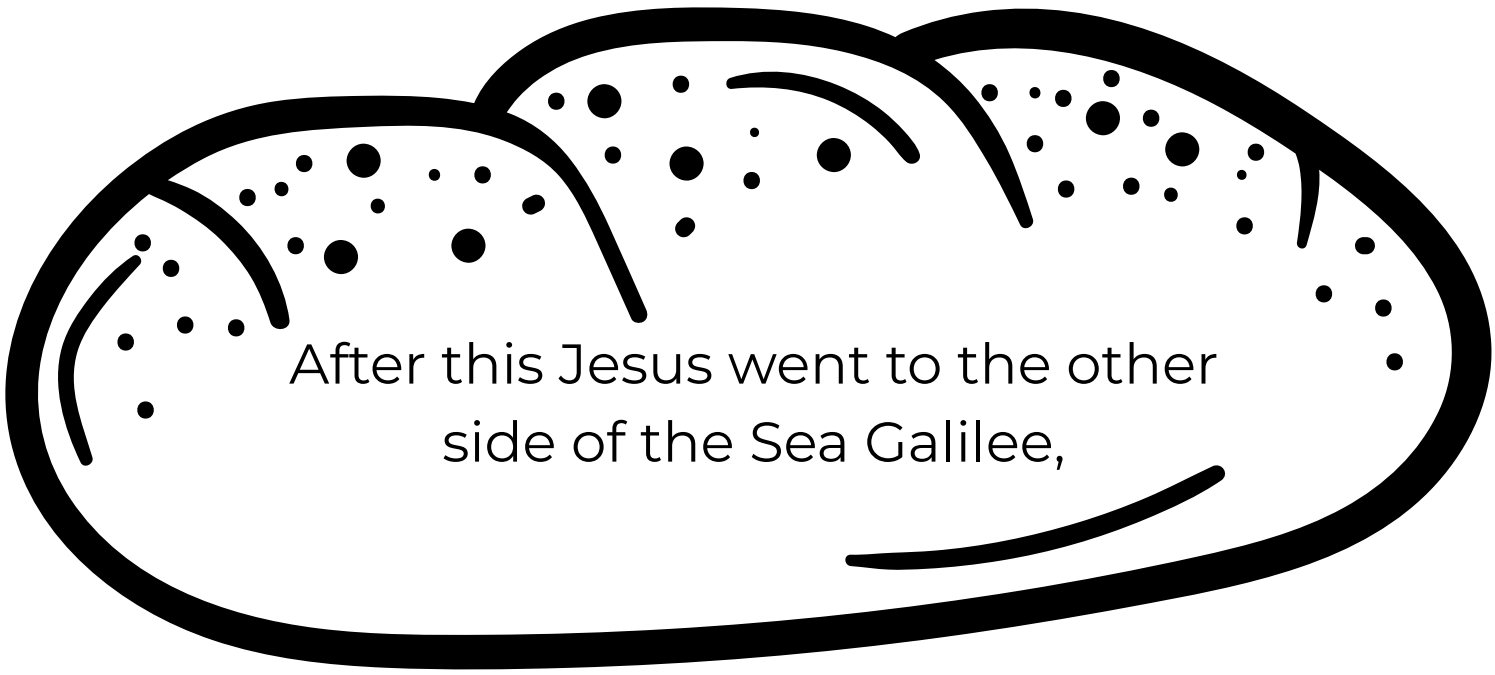




FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS



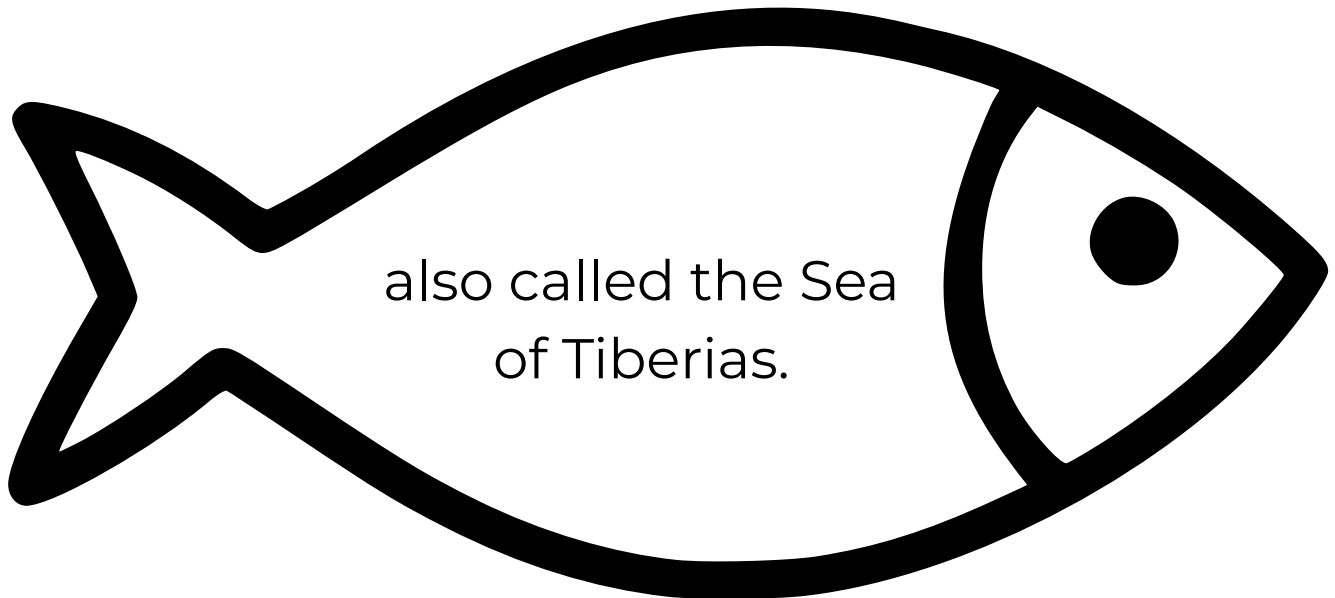
Feeding the 5000
John 6:1-15



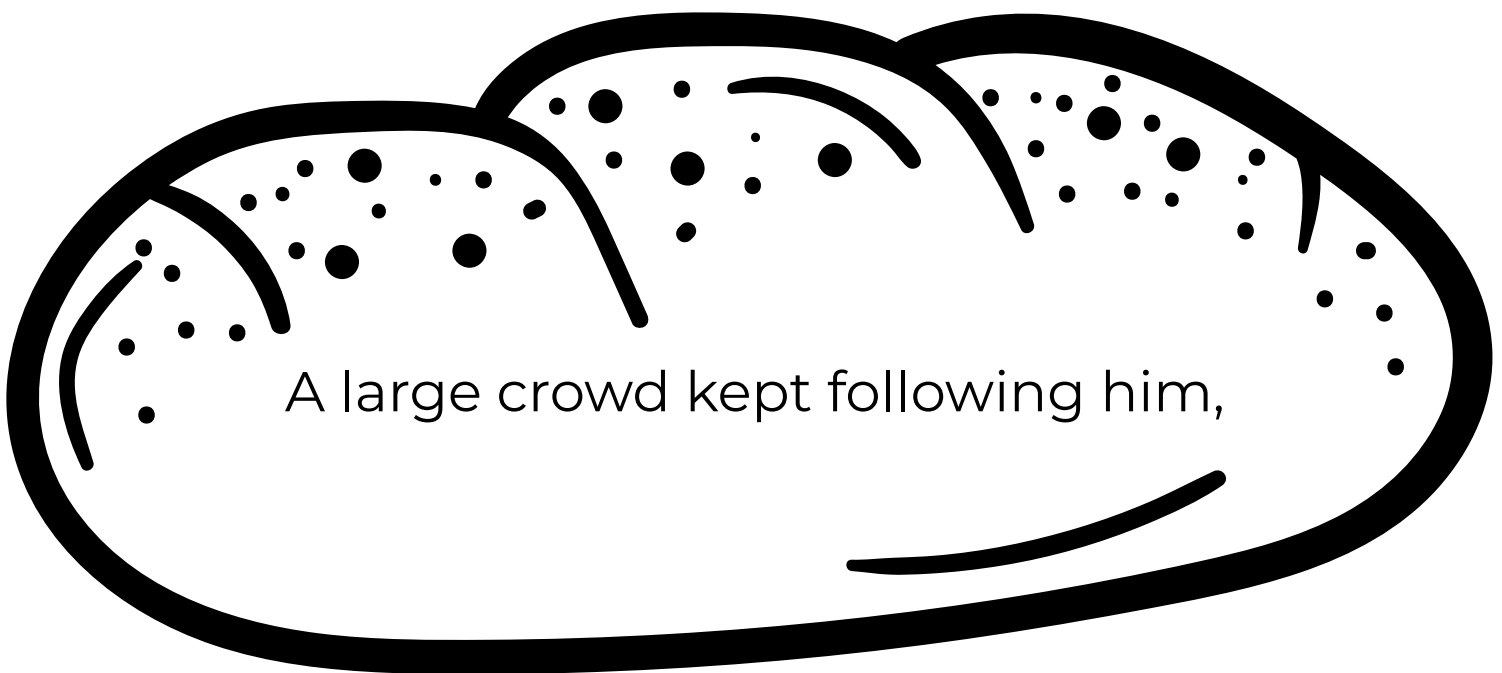
After this Jesus went to the other
side of the Sea Galilee,



FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS



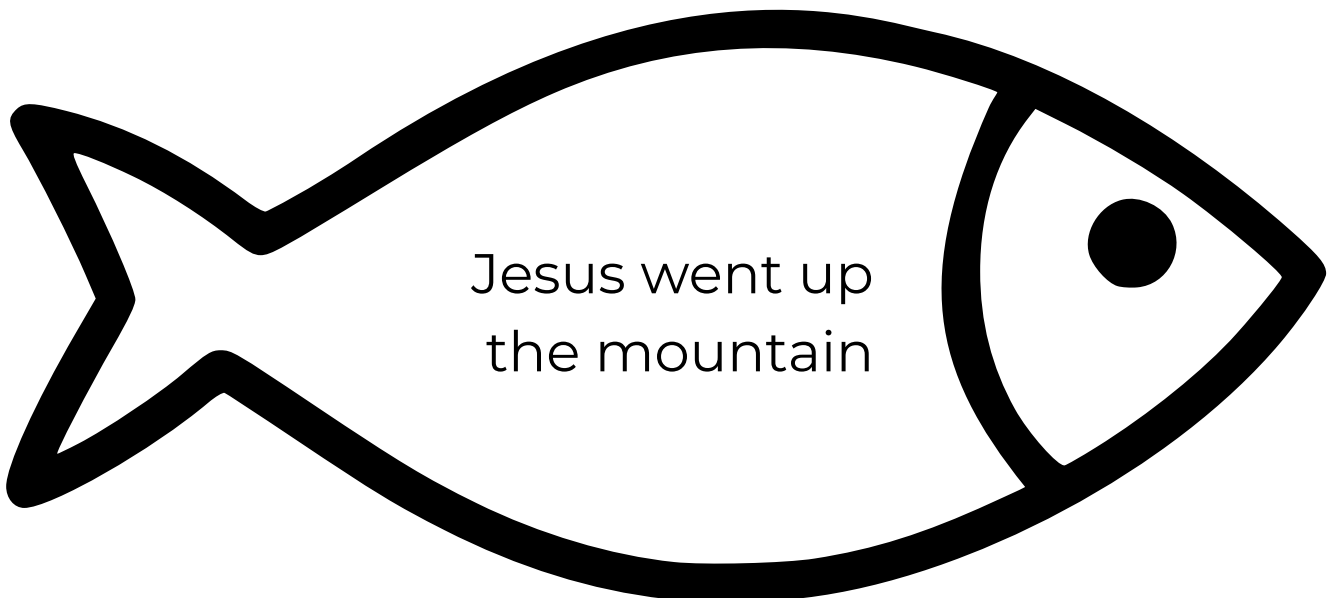
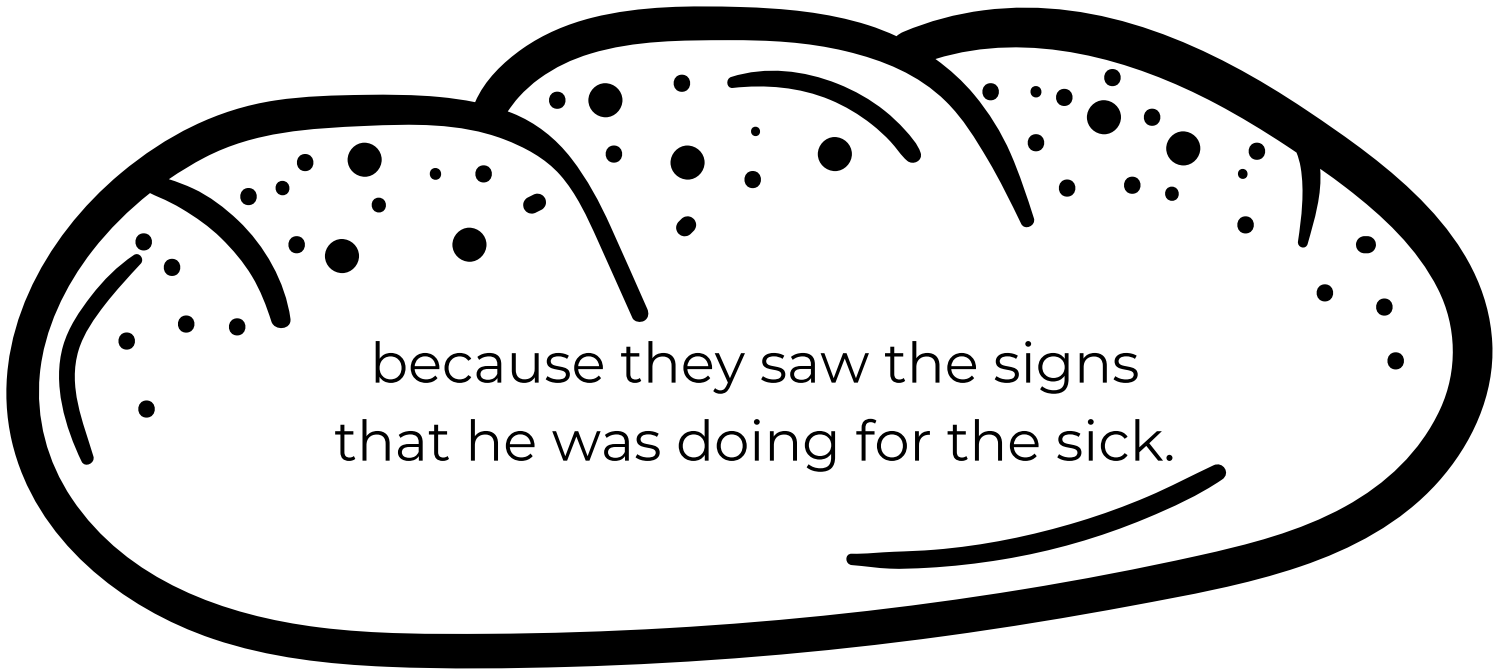
also called the Sea
of Tiberias.



A large crowd kept following him,



FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS






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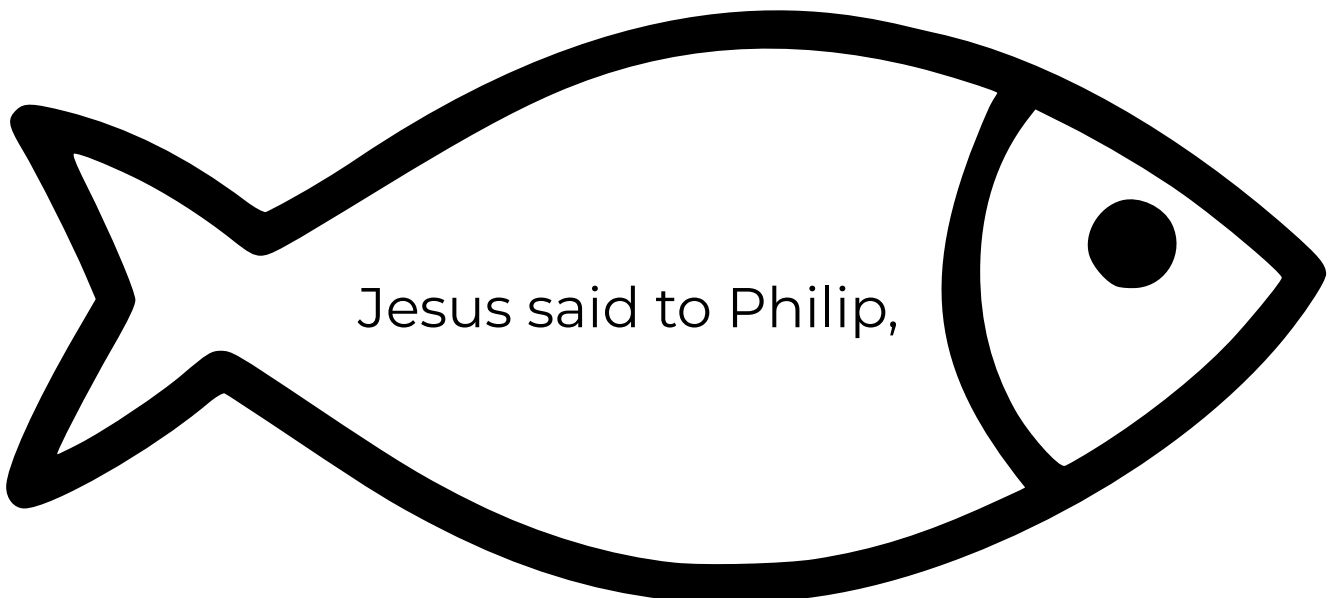
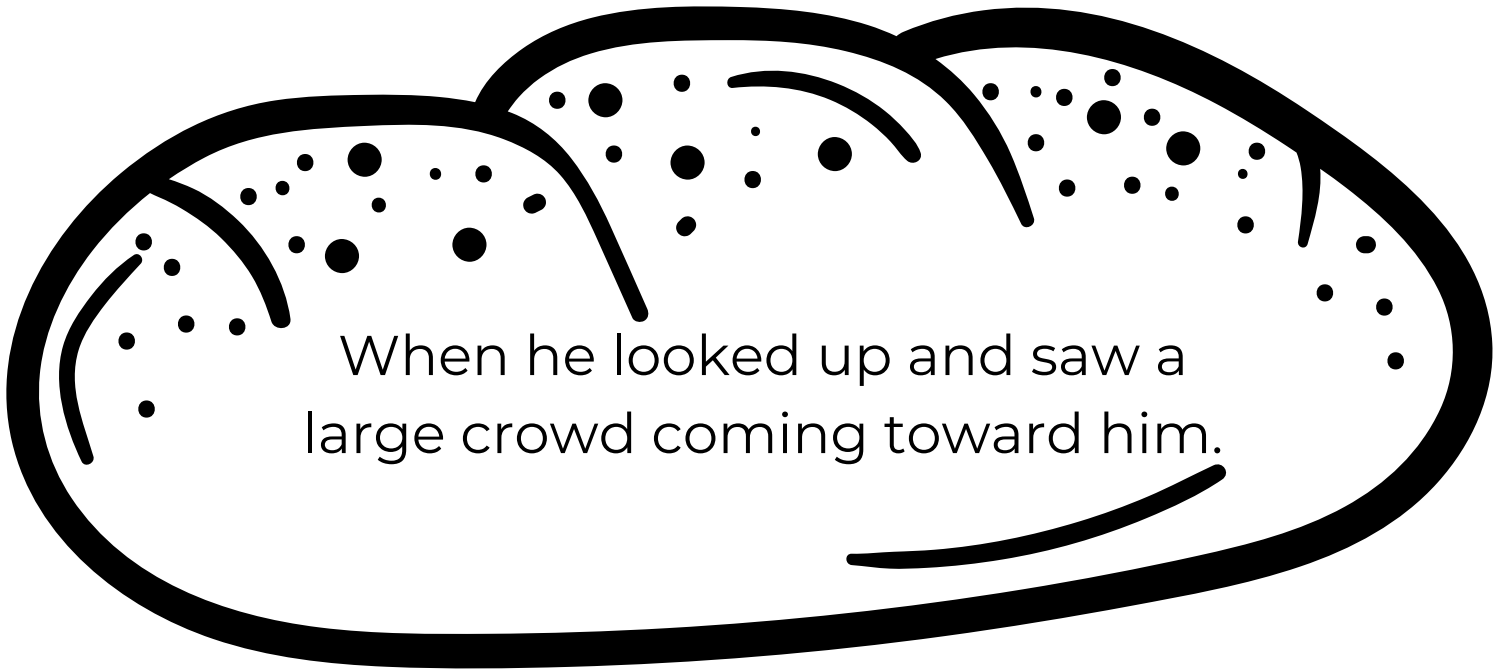
and sat down there
with his disciples.



Now the Passover, the festival of
Jews, was near.

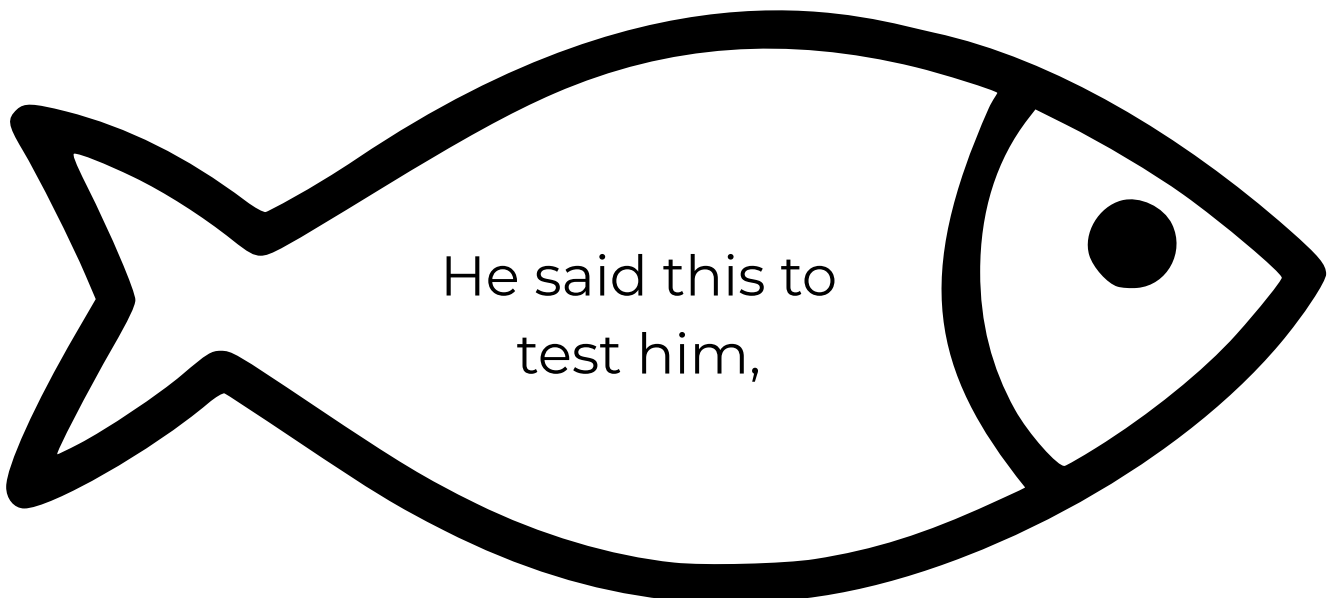


FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS



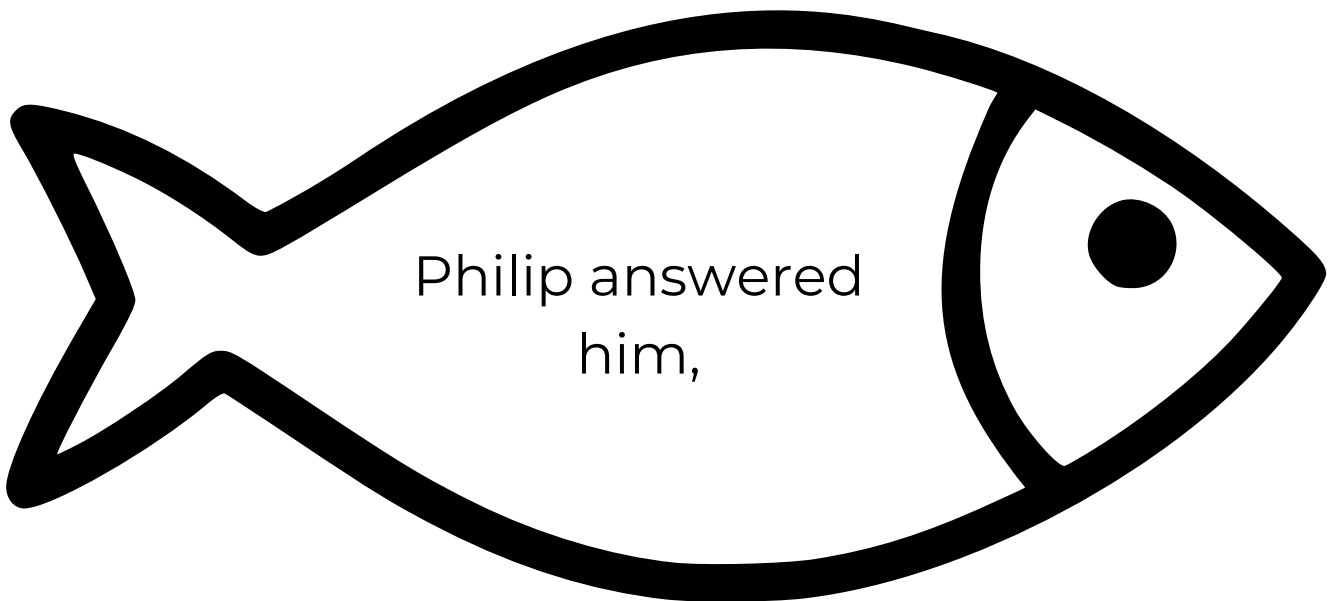
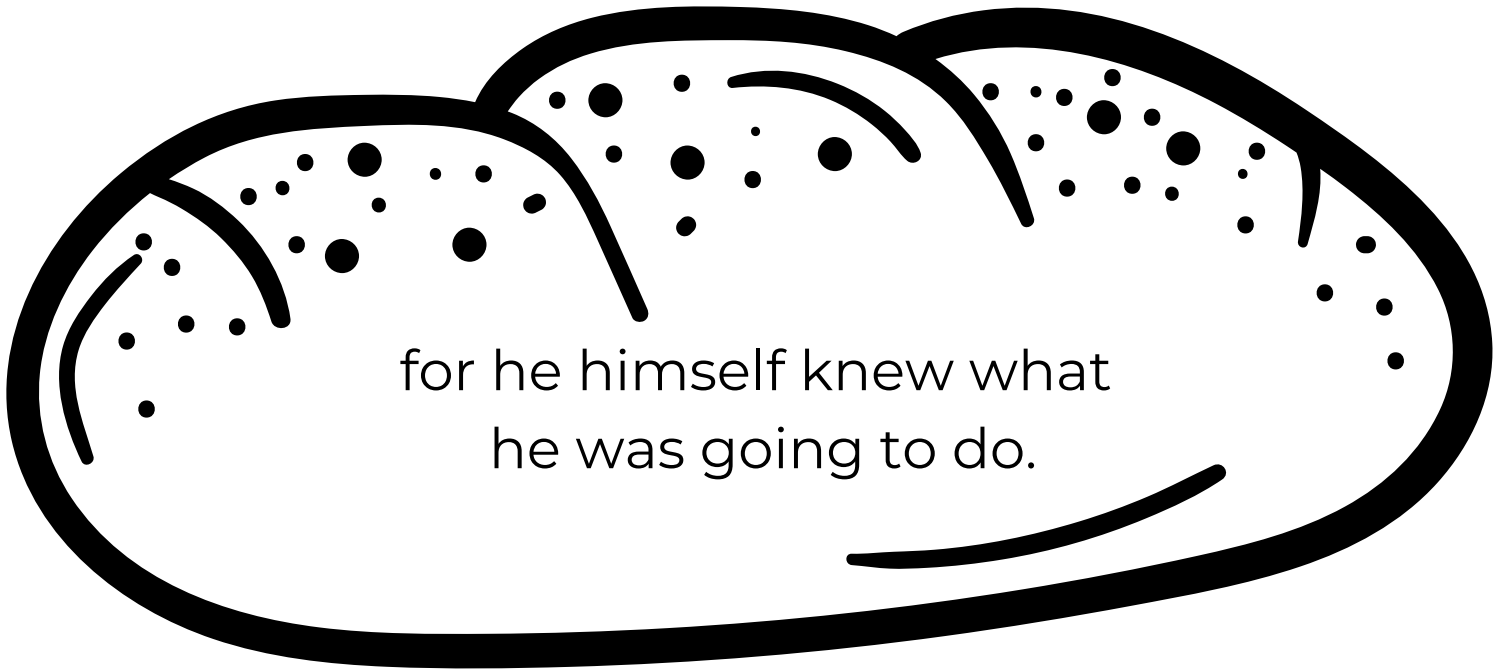


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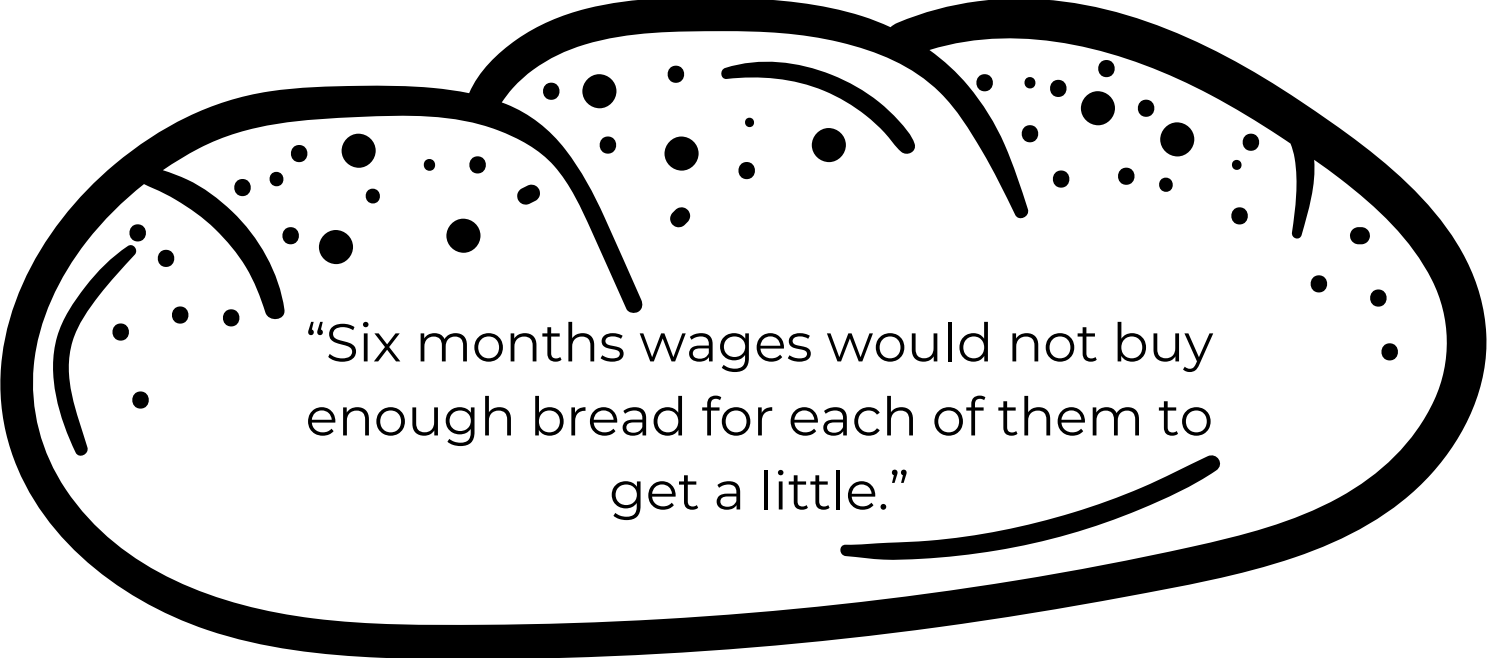


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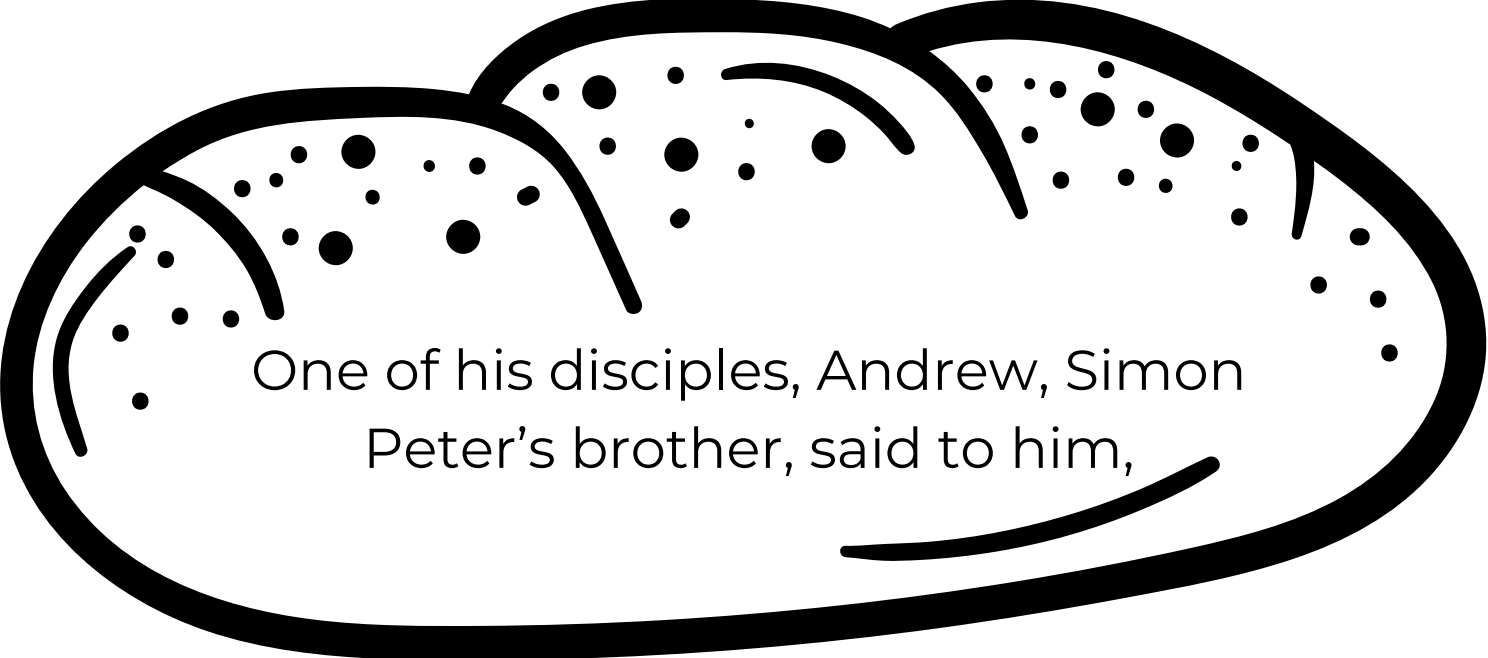




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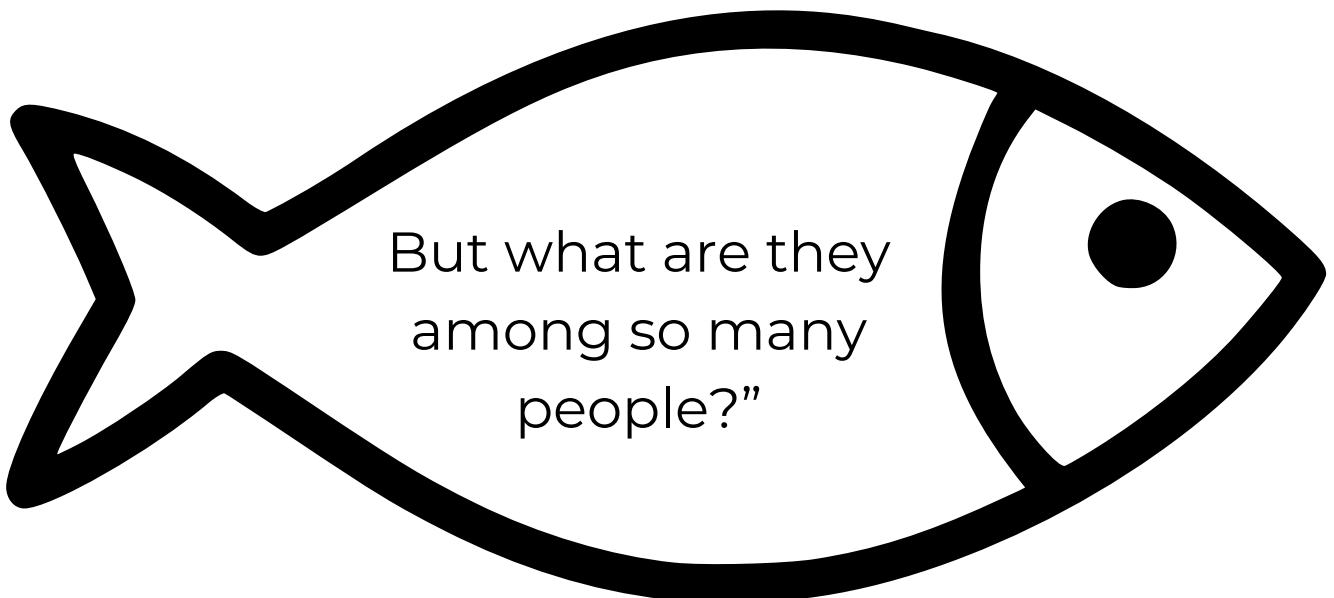
“Six months wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”



One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,



FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS



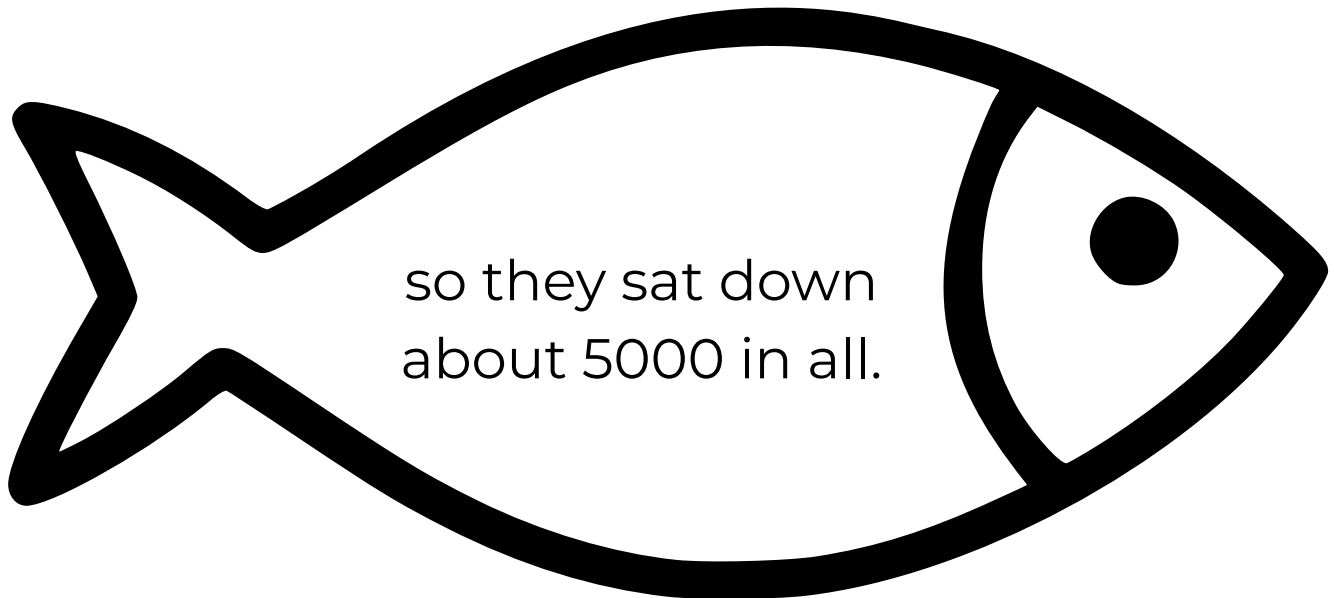


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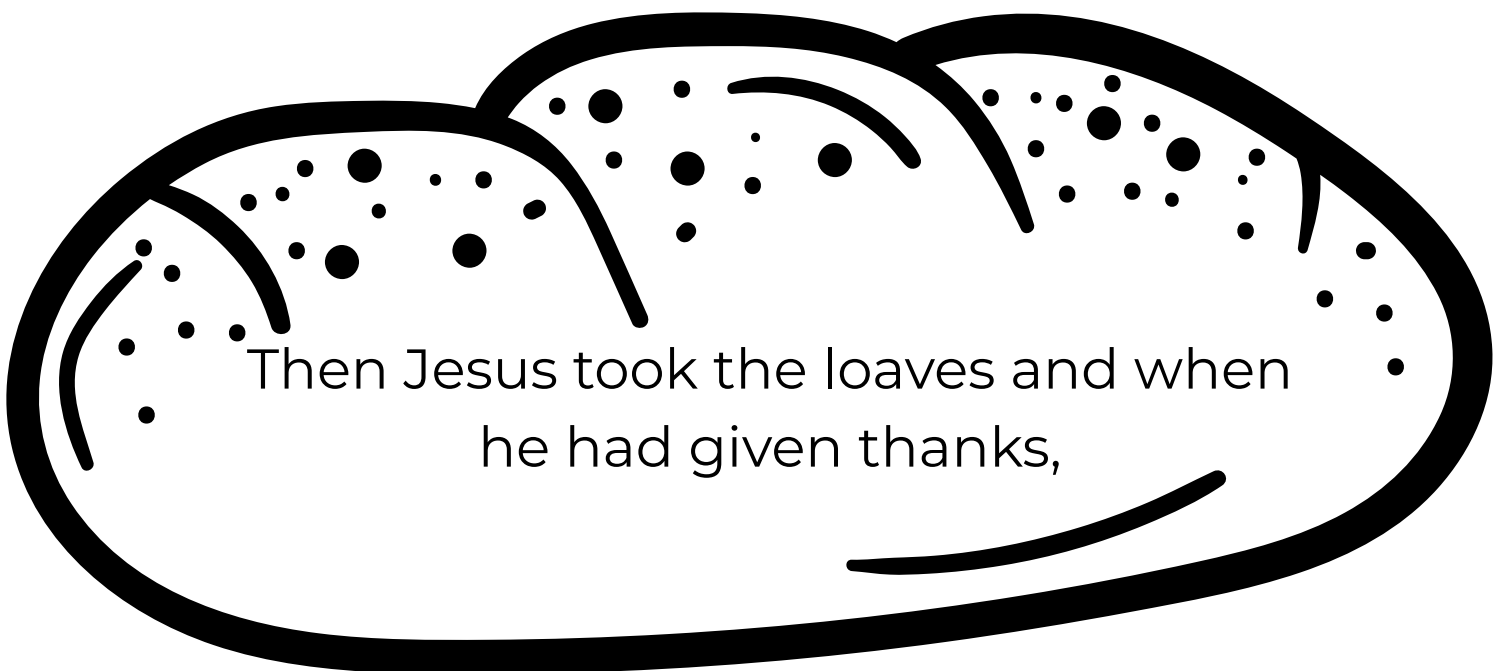




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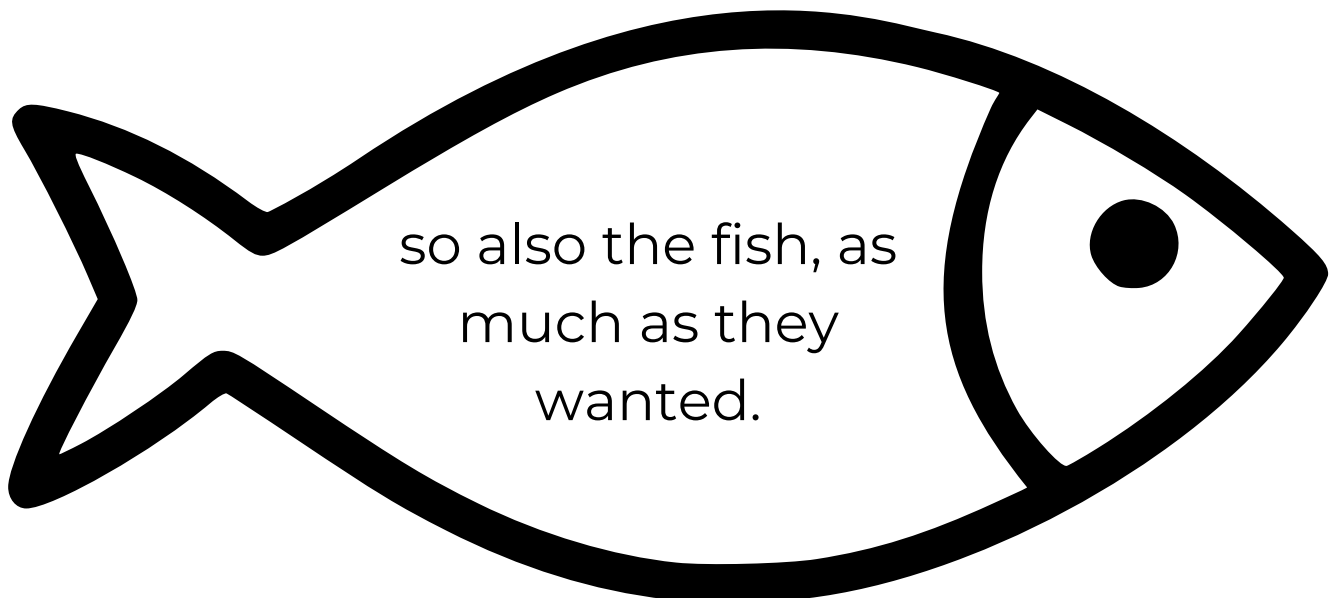
so they sat down
about 5000 in all.



Then Jesus took the loaves and when
he had given thanks,

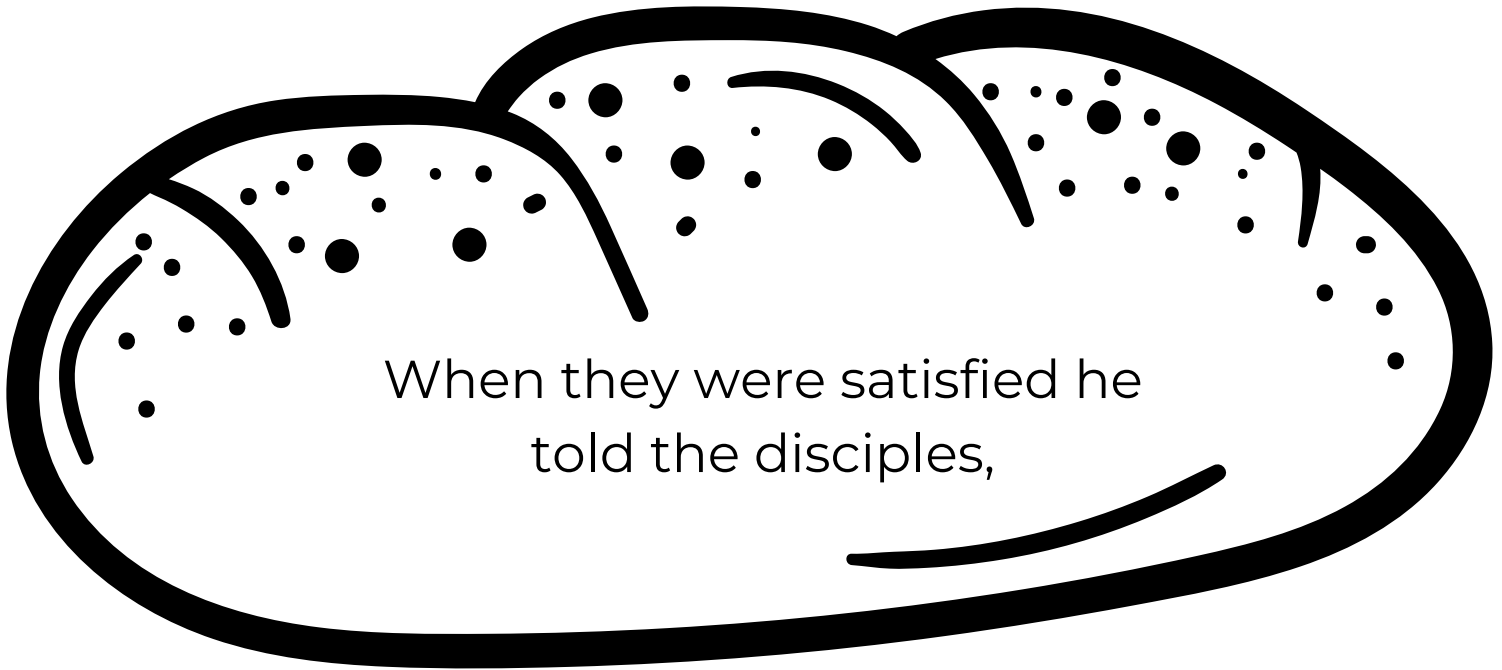


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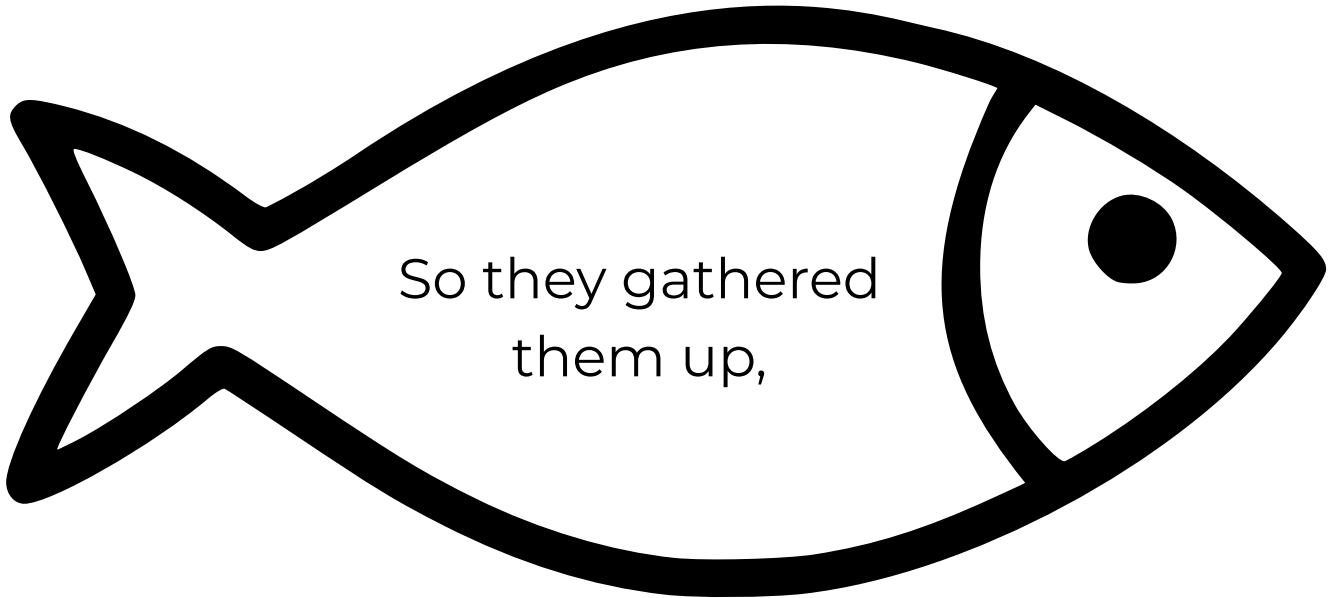


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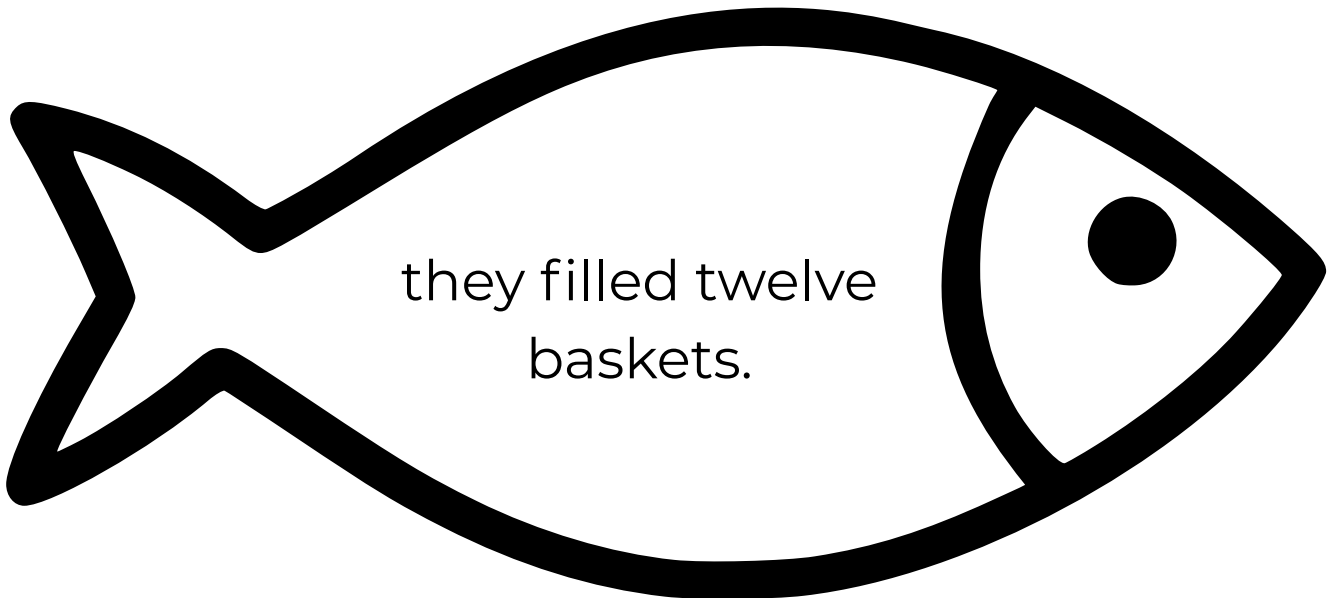


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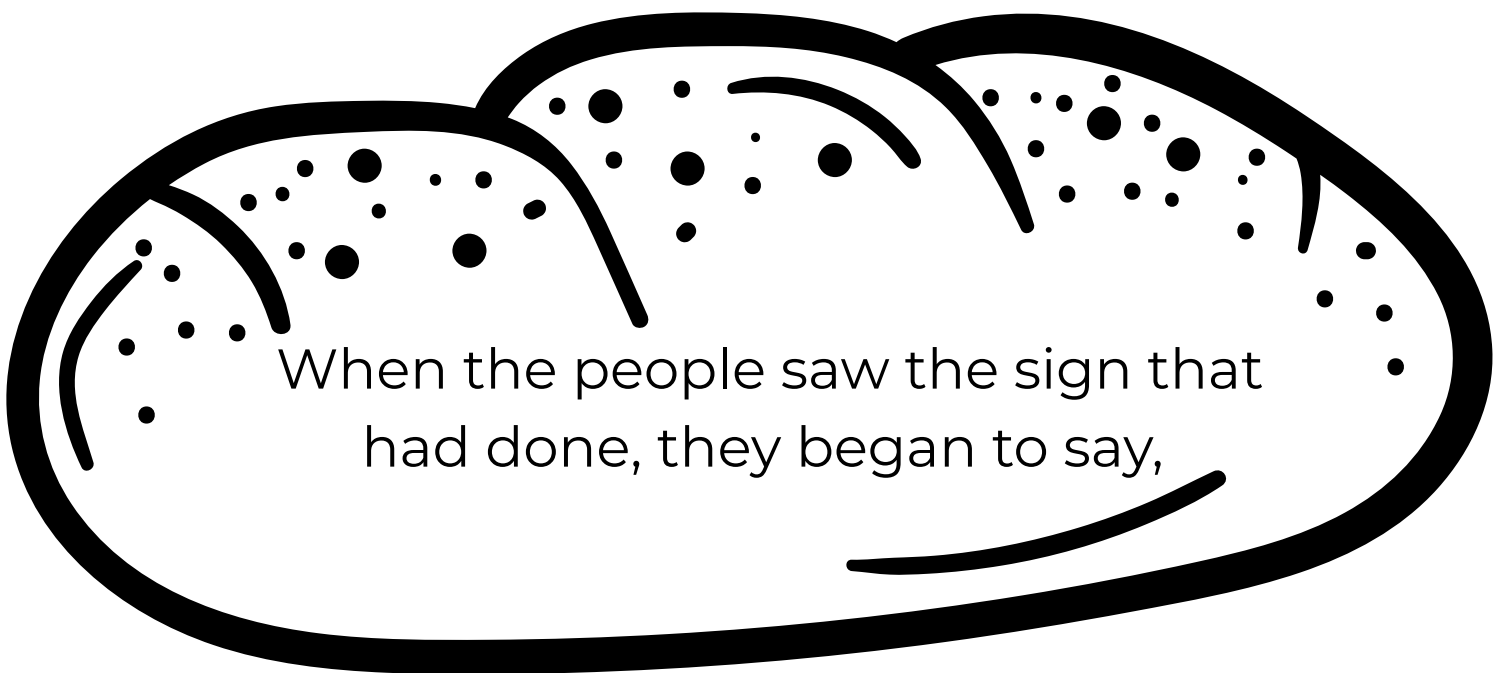




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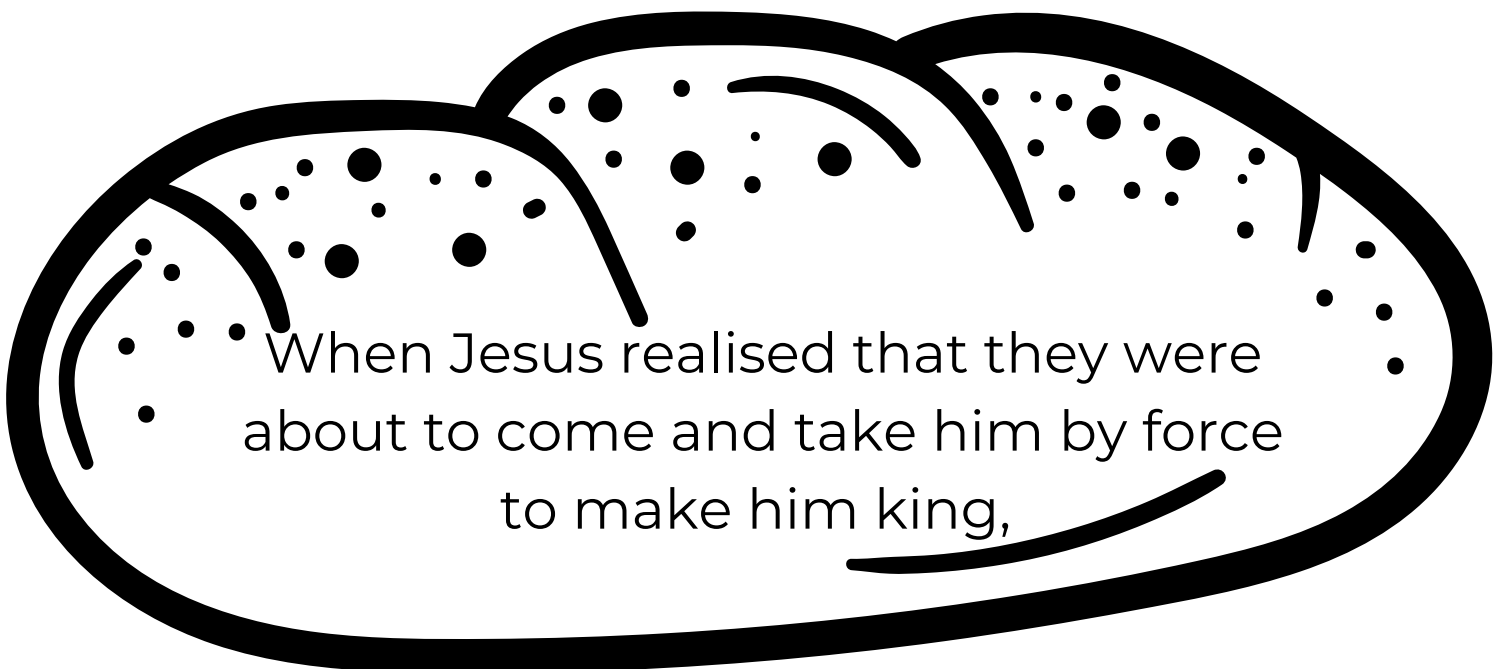
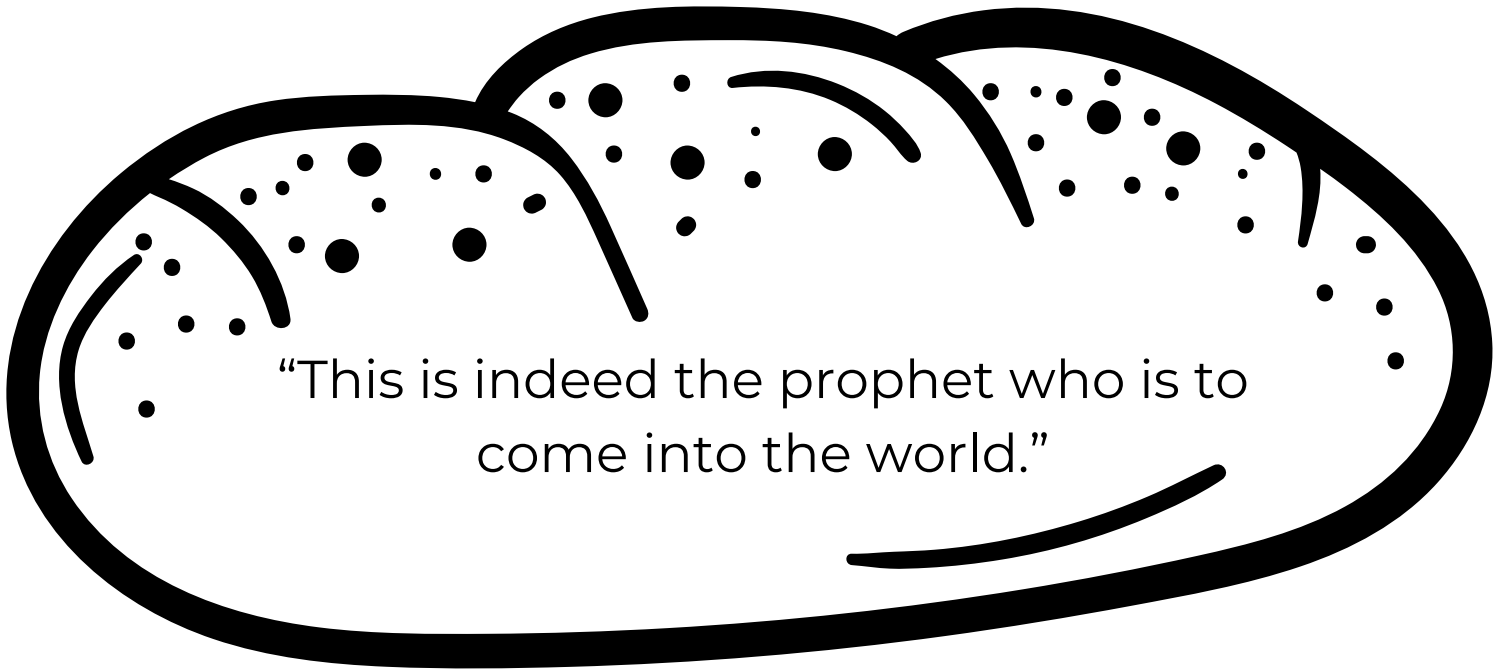
they filled twelve
baskets.



When the people saw the sign that
had done, they began to say,



FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS





FEEDING THE 5000 STORY CARDS

