

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<b>Lower Elementary</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> I can be generous.	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None
<b>FUN FISH SACKS TO SHARE:</b> Kids decorate and fill fish sacks with food to donate.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Balloon (not inflated)	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Plastic tablecloth, Sponge Stamp Templates (pages 29-30), assorted sponges, scissors, tempera paint, paper plates, sponge brushes, paint shirts, reusable cloth grocery bags (white or another light color), plastic bags, permanent markers
<b>Upper Elementary</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God provides.	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None
<b>BEADED FISH KEY CHAINS:</b> Kids create fish key chains that remind them of the story.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Chart paper or whiteboard, markers	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> String, scissors, ruler, pony beads, containers for beads, metal key rings, chenille stems, alphabet letter beads (J, E, S, U, S for each kid)
<b>All Kids</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God takes care of us.	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None
<b>BREAD DOUGH CROSSES:</b> Kids make and paint crosses made of bread dough.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Copy of the Lord's Prayer	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Plastic tablecloth, all-purpose flour, salt, water, paint shirts, paper plates, pens or pencils, measuring cups, table knives, microwave, acrylic paints, paintbrushes, cups of water



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.



**Workshop Focus:** I can be generous.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

**Let's close our eyes and open our imaginations. Let's pretend that when we arrived at our art workshop today, we each found our very favorite snack. What kind of food would that be for you?** Allow time for kids to share. **Those are some really yummy foods. But wait! The food we found belongs to someone else. Let's all practice asking that person to share. Say this with me, "Will you please share your yummy snack with me?"** Repeat the request along with the kids after you model it. **Then, the person says, "Yes, of course!" I'm so glad that the person was willing to share. Sharing is very important, especially when we have more than we need. We're going to read a story today about a time when God helped one little boy share his food with LOTS of others. Let's open our eyes and our Spark Story Bibles to page 426.**

Read the story aloud, pausing to invite kids to engage in the story. The following are a few examples of great places to pause:

- Page 426. "When Jesus saw the large crowd of men, women, and children, he asked his friend, Phillip, 'How are we going to get enough food to feed all

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
Balloon (not inflated)

of these people?" **Pretend you are one of these hungry people. Look really hungry.**

- Page 427. "Philip answered, 'I could work for six months and not earn enough money to buy food for all of these men, women, and children!'" **Philip is worried. Look really worried.**
- Page 428. "The boy looked very nervous as he said in a small voice, 'Jesus, please take my food if you think it will help.'" **Pretend you are the boy offering your food to Jesus.**
- Page 429. "All 5,000 people ate until they were full!" **Pretend you are one of the people eating until you are full.**
- Page 430. "And do you know what? There were enough leftover pieces of bread to fill 12 large baskets." **That's a lot of baskets! Let's count to 12 nice and loud.**
- Page 431. "The people saw the full baskets of leftovers and began to understand that something extraordinary had just happened—another miracle!" **Pretend you have just seen this miracle. Show how excited you are. Jump up and down, clap your hands, and smile.**

Have kids sit down again. **You did a wonderful job listening to the story and pretending to be like the characters. Let's review the story with a couple of questions. What was the miracle?** (*Jesus made enough food for everyone to eat from just five loaves and two fish.*) **Who provided the lunch that Jesus multiplied?** (*the boy*) **How many people ate that day?** (*5,000*)

**The boy didn't have a lot of food, but he was happy to share all of it anyway. That kind of sharing is what we call being generous. The boy was generous when he shared his food. Jesus took the boy's generous gift and made it even bigger. It would be like taking this little balloon and blowing it up.** Hold up the balloon for kids to see. Then blow it up and tie it. **Look how big the balloon is now! It reminds us that when we are generous, God makes miracles with the gifts we share.**

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Fun Fish Sacks to Share

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### Set Up:

- Collecting food for this activity can be done ahead of time or after the Fish Sacks are created. Decide which you prefer and organize a food donation station for your congregation.
- Cover your workspace with the plastic tablecloth.
- Using the Stamp Templates on pages 29-30, cut your sponges into various shapes for kids to use as stamps.
- Pour some paint onto the paper plates, one color per plate.
- Lay out other sponge brushes so kids can free-paint their sacks, too.

### Activity Instructions

**Giving food to the local food shelf is a great way that we can be generous, just like the boy was in the story. We can share the food that we have with a family who needs it. We are going to decorate reusable sacks that we will fill with food for the food shelf.**

1. Help kids put on paint shirts.
2. Pass out a cloth bag to each kid. Help him or her line the cloth bag with a plastic bag so the paint will not bleed through.
3. Show kids the stamps you've created. **You can use these stamps to add designs to your bags. You can add five loaves and two fish using the loaf and fish stamps, and you can add lots of other shapes, too!**
4. Ask adult helpers in the room to use permanent marker to add a message to each bag, such as "This food is sent with love from the kids at [name of your church]!"
5. When everyone has finished, allow some time for kids to show their bags to the group and talk about the designs that are on them.
6. Leave bags in the classroom to dry. Over the next week or two, collect food donations from the congregation. With your class, fill the bags with food donated by your congregation and arrange a time to drop off bags at your local food shelf.

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Plastic tablecloth  
Sponge Stamp Templates,  
(pages 29-30)  
Assorted sponges  
Tempera paint  
Paper plates  
Sponge brushes  
Paint shirts  
Reusable cloth grocery bags,  
white or another light color  
Plastic bags  
Permanent markers  
Scissors

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Look at the wonderful bags you have made! With the help of our congregation, we'll fill these bags with food to give to people who need it. Just like the boy in today's Bible story, we can be generous!**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Let's think again about being generous. Using your whole body, make yourself into a statue that shows someone who is generous.** Give kids a moment to do this. Do it with them if they need an example. Try standing with your hands open as if offering something to others. **That's good. Let's move around for a little bit and try out some other poses that show someone being generous.** Allow time for kids to move. **Now, we are going to pray. Whenever I say: "Giving God, help us be generous," I'd like you to strike one of the poses we've tried. You can keep doing the same one or try different ones.**

**Let's pray:**

**Hello, Jesus.**

**Thank you for feeding 5,000 people with one boy's lunch.**

**Giving God, help us be generous.** Allow time for all to pose.

**We are happy to learn that you are so amazing.**

**Giving God, help us be generous.** Allow time for all to pose.

**Help us to be excited to share what we have, too.**

**Giving God, help us be generous.** Allow time for all to pose.

**Bless the bags we have painted. May they help us bring lots of food to hungry people. Giving God, help us be generous.** Allow time for all to pose.

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** God provides.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

**Today, we're going to make an important list. We're going to try to list all of the things that we have. Let's get started.** Allow time for kids to brainstorm. Remind them to include non-material things, too, like love, friends, health, and a great church community! Keep working until you've filled at least one page. **Wow! We have a lot of things! Now from this list, let's circle the things that we need, like food and water and love.** Direct kids to name only the things from the list that are needs. Help kids understand the difference between needs and wants. **Well, I can see that not everything on this list is circled. Do you know who provides all of the things we see here? God does! And it sure looks like God provides us with more than we need. Today, we're going to read a story about a time when God provided a whole bunch of people with more food than they needed. It was a miracle!**

**Let's open our Spark Bibles to John 6:1-14 on page 1178.** Ask for volunteers to read the story aloud.

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Chart paper or whiteboard  
Markers

Discuss the following questions.

- **Why were people following Jesus?** *(He had been healing the sick.)*
- **Why was Philip worried about all the people being there?** *(He didn't think he could afford to feed them all.)*
- **Have you ever been worried about your ability to do something? What was it?** Allow time for kids to share.
- **Philip was surprised when God provided food for all these people. There was even more food than they needed. How many baskets of leftovers were there?** *(12)*
- **What did the people think about Jesus after they experienced this miracle?** *(They thought he was a prophet.)*
- **What do you think about Jesus after hearing this story?** Allow time for kids to share.

**In this story, God provides for the people who are hungry. God provides for you and me, too. The things on our list are all things that God provides.**

Invite kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker in their Spark Bibles.

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Beaded Fish Key Chains

**Set Up:** Cut one 6" (15 cm) string and one 12" (30 cm) string for each kid. Place pony beads in containers.

#### Activity Instructions

**There is a lot of important imagery in this story that can remind us of the miracle that Jesus performed. Loaves and fish are two of the images. We're going to make fish key chains with lots of beads to remind us that God provides.**

1. Give each kid a 6" (15 cm) piece of string, a pony bead, a key ring, and a chenille stem.
2. Thread one end of the string through the bead and the key ring. Tie the string in a double knot, leaving a one-inch (2.5-cm) loop. Trim the ends of the string.



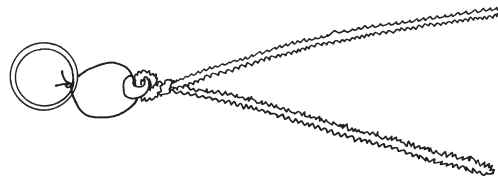
#### Spark Resources

None

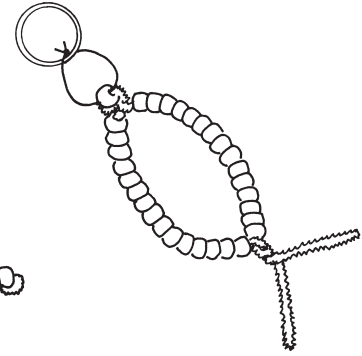
#### Supplies

String  
Scissors  
Ruler  
Pony beads  
Containers for beads  
Metal key rings  
12" (30 cm) chenille stems  
Alphabet letter beads (*J, E, S, U, S* for each kid)

3. Fold the chenille stem in half. Put one end of the folded stem into your bead and pull it through until the bead is at the folded point of the stem. Twist the ends of the stem around each other to keep the bead in place. This bead will be the nose of the fish.



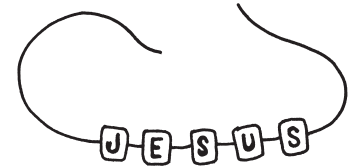
4. Add 15 beads of the beader's choice to each end of the chenille stem. Twist the remaining ends of the stem together to create the fish's tail.



5. Add another 5 beads onto each side of the "tail" end of the stem. Twist the end of the stem around the last bead on each side so the beads don't slide off the tail.



6. Feed the letter beads spelling J-E-S-U-S onto a 12" (30 cm) piece of string. Position the letters on the center of the string, tying a knot on both sides of word to keep the beads in place.



7. Position the "JESUS" string inside the body of the fish. Wrap one end of the string around the nose of the fish. Wrap the other end around the tip of the tail of the fish. Then trim the string.



8. If you have extra time, invite kids to make extra fish key chains to share.

**Your key chains have many wonderful beads! They remind me of an important lesson from this story: God provides!**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Our fish key chains are important to this story and to our lives as Christians. When someone asks you about your fish key chain, you can tell them about this story and about your church. What if someone asks you why you have that cool fish on your key chain? What will you say?** Encourage kids to practice telling the story Jesus Feeds 5,000.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

Fish key chains from Activate Faith

## Prayer Time

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**Let's place all our fish key chains in the center of the table. Make sure you know where yours is. We are going to ask a blessing upon these key chains, so hold your hands over the pile without quite touching them. We will pray as we hold our hands this way.**

**Dear God of all,**

**We thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for all the amazing things he did, like feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. Bless these key chains we've made. May they remind us that you provide more than we need. May these key chains open up conversations with others about how important our faith is. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** God takes care of us.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

**Today, we are going to share a miracle story called Jesus Feeds 5,000. If you have a Spark Story Bible, you can find the story on page 426. If you have a Spark Bible, you can find it in John 6:1-14 on page 1178.** Once everyone has found the story in their Bibles, invite volunteers to read—first from the Spark Story Bible, then from the Spark Bible. **Older kids can look on with younger kids while the story is read from the Spark Story Bible, and younger kids can look on with older kids while the story is read from the Spark Bible.**

**Now let's imagine that we are members of the crowd following Jesus that day. We've been walking to find him. Stand up and walk in place with me.** Stand and walk. **Now we finally found Jesus, but we are hungry. Let's look extra hungry.** Hold belly, make a sad face. **One boy has offered us a little bit of food. Do you think it will be enough for all of us? I don't think so! Shake head "no." But wait! Jesus is blessing the boy's food and they are passing it around to everybody. Here it comes to us!** Pretend to take a basket, pull food out of it, and start to eat. Pass the basket to the next person to do the same. **Mmm! That was good, and look—there are leftovers! Jesus can make miracles happen! Let's cheer for Jesus!** Cheer. Jump up and down with enthusiasm.

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Copy of the Lord's Prayer

Sit back down together. **Jesus uses stories like this one to teach us about God. This story teaches us that God gives us all we need—whether it's food or clothes or love. God takes care of us! Jesus taught us a prayer that reminds us of this. It's called the Lord's Prayer. Let's say this prayer.** Pray the Lord's Prayer together. If some kids in your class don't know it, encourage them to listen and say the parts they do know.

**Did you hear anything in the prayer that was also in our story today? (*bread*) We ask God to "Give us each day our daily bread." Daily bread is much more than just things to eat. Daily bread includes all of the things we need each day. Just like God provided for the people in this story, God provides for us.**

Allow time for older kids to choose a Spark Bible Sticker to place somewhere in the story. Encourage them to share which sticker they chose with a younger kid seated near them.

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Bread Dough Crosses

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**Set Up:** Cover the workspace with a plastic tablecloth. Gather the quantity of salt bread dough ingredients needed to yield 1/4 (.06 l) cup flour, 1/8 cup (.03 l) salt, and 1/8 cup (.03 l) warm tap water for each kid.

#### Activity Instructions

**To help us remember that God provides our daily bread—which includes bread and everything else—we are going to make salt bread dough. This is not for eating but for creating with our hands. The most important thing that God provides for us is Jesus, so we will shape our dough into a cross.**

1. Direct kids to put on paint shirts. Assist younger kids as needed.
2. Pass out one paper plate to each kid. **Please write your name on the edge of your plate.**
3. Guide each kid in measuring and pouring 1/4 cup (.06 l) flour and 1/8 cup (.03 l) salt onto his or her plate.
4. Instruct kids to stir the dry ingredients together with their hands, form the mixture into a mound, then make a hole in the center.
5. Pour 1/8 cup (.03 l) warm water into the center of the mound on each kid's plate.
6. Ask kids to gently blend the water with their dry ingredients to form dough, then direct them to knead their dough for a couple of minutes.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Plastic tablecloth  
All-purpose flour  
Salt  
Water  
Paint shirts  
Paper plates  
Pens or pencils  
Measuring cups  
Table knives  
Microwave  
Acrylic paints  
Paintbrushes  
Cups of water

7. Invite kids to pat out the dough flat on the plate then form it into the shape of a cross. Offer table knives to straighten the edges as needed.
8. As each kid finishes forming a cross, invite him or her to take it to an adult who will microwave it on full power for 1-2 minutes (or until the dough becomes hard). While crosses are being microwaved, allow kids to wash their hands. If no microwave is available, send crosses home with the kids to air-dry. Encourage them to decorate their dried crosses at home with crayons, markers, or paints.
9. During the remaining time, invite kids to decorate their dry bread dough crosses with paint. Allow time for paint to dry before sending crosses home with kids.

**Our bread dough crosses remind us of a very important message that Jesus wants us to remember: God gives us our “daily bread.” God takes care of us!**

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**We've made our very own bread dough crosses to remember that God provides us with “daily bread,” which includes what? (*everything we need*) And the cross reminds us of Jesus and the miracles he performed!**

**Making a cross art project is really fun, but did you know you can also make a gesture to remember the cross? We call it “the sign of the cross.” This is how Christians usually do it. Put your right hand on your forehead. Now bring it straight down to your chest. Now touch one shoulder. Then touch the other shoulder.** Practice until kids are comfortable.

### Prayer Time

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**We are going to make the sign of the cross at the end of our prayer, so be ready.**

**Let us pray:**

**God of Abundance,**

**We are so glad you provided for the crowd in today's Bible story. You gave the people the food they needed. We are so glad that you also provide for us. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask you for “daily bread,” and we know that means more than bread—it is everything we need. Thank you for taking care of us!** (Make the sign of the cross together.)

**Amen.**

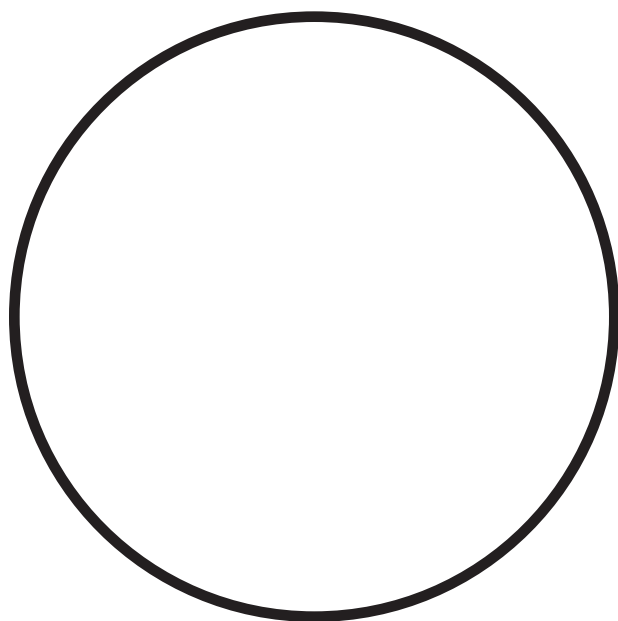
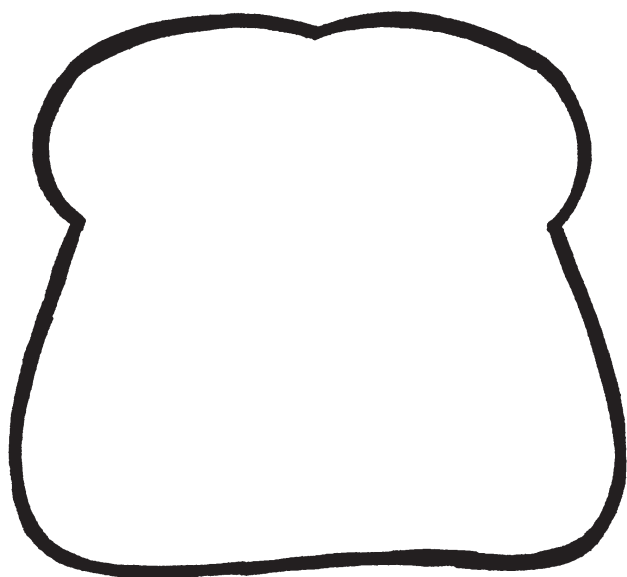
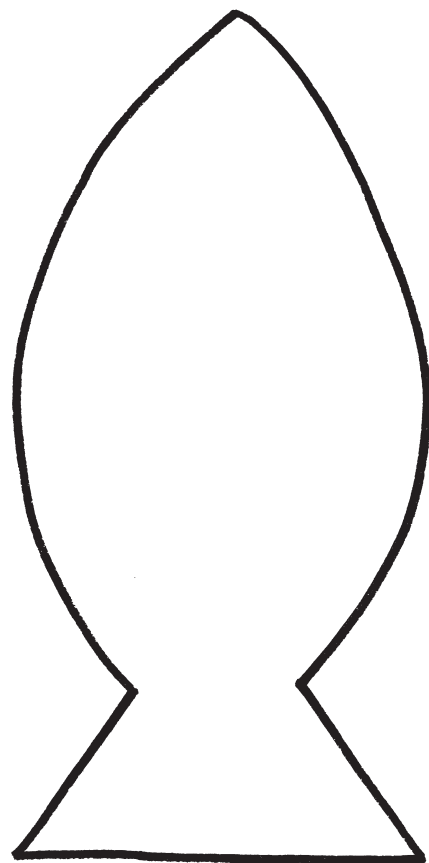
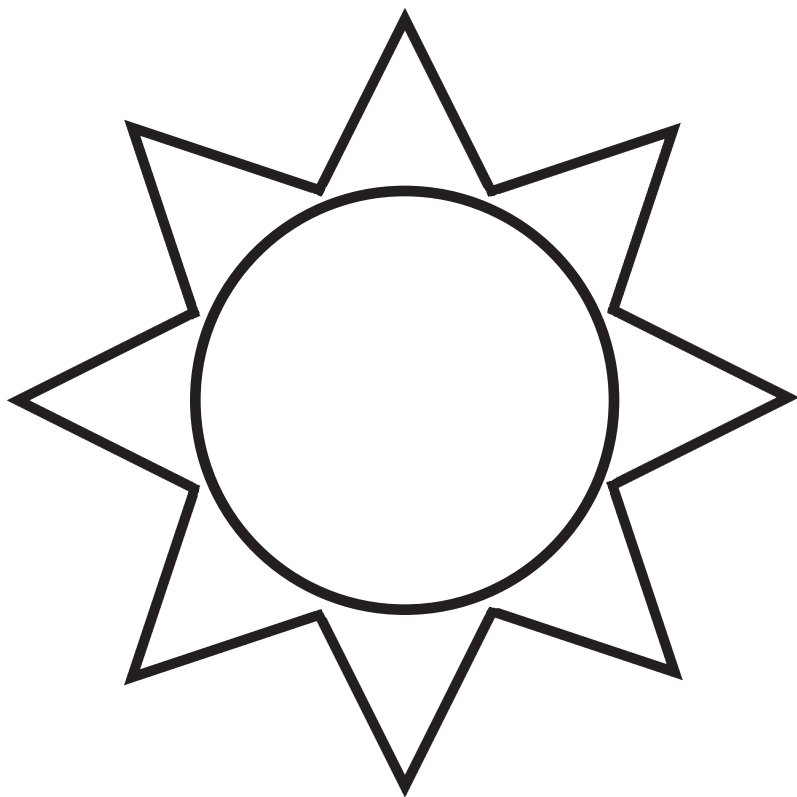
Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None



# Sponge Stamp Templates



# Sponge Stamp Templates

