BOATFUL!

A catch so big it filled the boat!

The challenge

- Fit all ten fish into the boat's hold.
- Use every fish once. No gaps, no overlaps, nothing outside the hold.
- You may **turn** a fish, but never **flip** it: the picture stays face up.
- On a challenge card, put the fixed fish in first, then fit the rest.
- Every challenge card has exactly one answer.

Getting ready

- Print at **100% / actual size** on A4. Card works best.
- Each grid square is 20 mm on the board and the fish. Measure one to check.
- Cut out the ten fish along their dark outer edge.
- Only the square-celled hold is the playing area, not the wooden hull.

What's inside

Page 2: the Bible story, verse cards and talk-about cards · Page 3: the boat board · Page 4: fish to cut out · Pages 5–9: thirty challenge cards, easiest first · Pages 10–11: solutions · Page 12: test notes

Five levels

Little Sailor: 7 fish fixed · **Deckhand**: 5 fish fixed · **Fisher**: 4 fish fixed · **Captain**: 3 fish fixed · **Admiral**: 2 fish fixed. Each level has six cards that get harder as you go.

Did you know?

The ten fish cover exactly 48 squares, the same as the hold. There are 3,312 different ways to fill the boat when the fish can turn but not flip. Can you find one with no fixed fish at all?



The great catch of fish

The Bible story behind Boatful! · Luke 5:1–11

Simon Peter and his friends were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. One night they worked hard but caught nothing at all.

In the morning Jesus got into Simon's boat. He told him to row out into deep water and let down the nets again. Simon was tired, but he said, "Because You say so, I will let down the nets."

The nets filled with so many fish that they began to tear! Simon's partners brought their boat to help, and both boats were so full they started to sink.

Simon was amazed. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So they brought their boats to shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

"Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch."
Luke 5:4

Verse cards

VERSE CARD
"Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch."
Luke 5:4

VERSE CARD
"But because You say so, I will let down the nets."
Luke 5:5

VERSE CARD
"They caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to tear."
Luke 5:6

VERSE CARD
"Do not be afraid," Jesus said to Simon. "From now on you will catch men."
Luke 5:10

VERSE CARD
"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19

VERSE CARD
"Here is the sea, vast and wide, teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both great and small."
Psalm 104:25

Talk-about cards

TALK ABOUT
Simon had fished all night and caught nothing. How do you think he felt when Jesus said, "Try again"?

TALK ABOUT
Simon said, "Because You say so, I will let down the nets." When is it hard to do what God says?

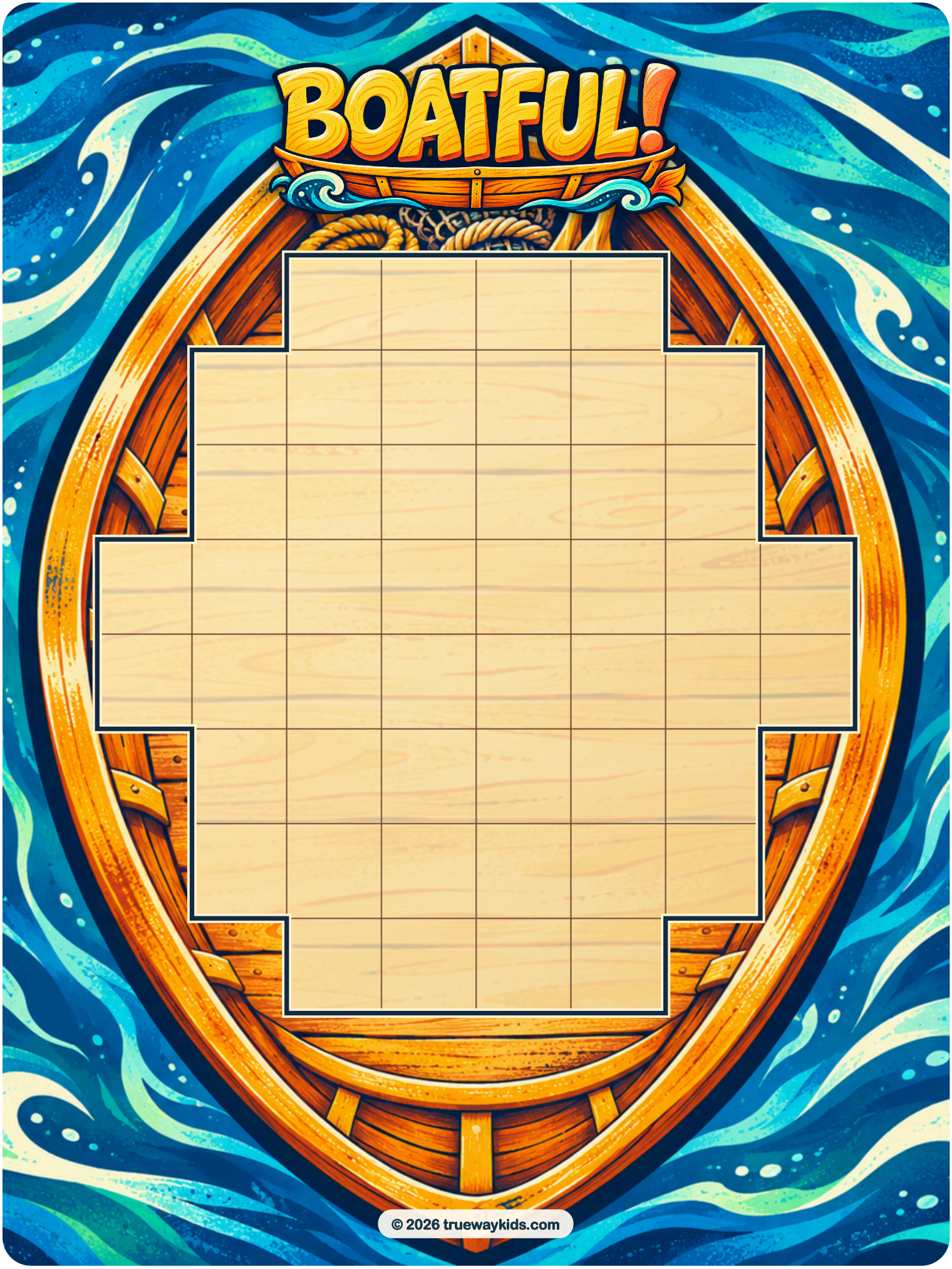
TALK ABOUT
The boats were so full they began to sink! What does this story show us about Jesus?

TALK ABOUT
Which fish was hardest to fit in your boat? Who could you ask for help, like Simon asked his partners?

TALK ABOUT
Jesus said Simon would "catch men". What do you think He meant?

TALK ABOUT
Simon left everything to follow Jesus. What would be hard for you to leave behind?

Cut along the dashed lines. Read a verse card after each puzzle, or pick a talk-about card when someone fills the boat. Bible verses: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain.



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Fish to cut out

Cut along the dark outer edge only · keep the picture face up



J



I



A



E



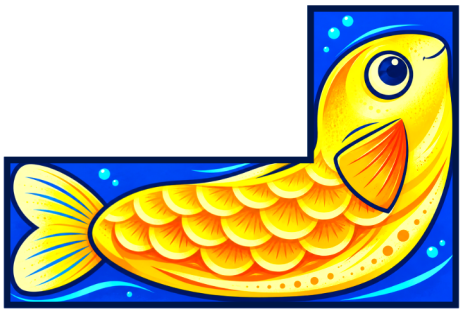
F



G



H



B



C



D

Little Sailor ★☆☆☆☆

7 fish are fixed: put them in exactly as shown, then fit the other 3 · turn, don't flip

Card 1

Fixed fish: A, B, C, D, E, F, H



Card 2

Fixed fish: A, B, C, D, G, I, J



Card 3

Fixed fish: A, B, C, F, G, H, J



Card 4

Fixed fish: A, D, F, G, H, I, J



Card 5

Fixed fish: A, B, C, D, F, G, J



Card 6

Fixed fish: B, D, E, F, G, I, J



Deckhand ★★☆☆☆

5 fish are fixed: put them in exactly as shown, then fit the other 5 · turn, don't flip

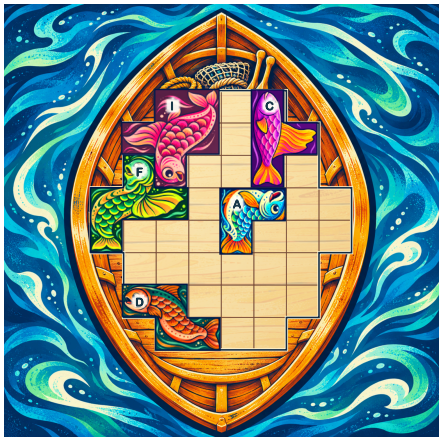
Card 7

Fixed fish: A, D, E, F, I



Card 8

Fixed fish: A, C, D, F, I



Card 9

Fixed fish: A, B, E, F, I



Card 10

Fixed fish: B, C, D, G, I



Card 11

Fixed fish: A, B, F, G, H



Card 12

Fixed fish: A, C, E, G, I



Fisher ★★★☆☆

4 fish are fixed: put them in exactly as shown, then fit the other 6 · turn, don't flip

Card 13

Fixed fish: A, B, F, H



Card 14

Fixed fish: C, D, E, G



Card 15

Fixed fish: B, C, H, I



Card 16

Fixed fish: A, B, C, F



Card 17

Fixed fish: A, D, E, G



Card 18

Fixed fish: A, B, D, I



Captain ★★★★☆

3 fish are fixed: put them in exactly as shown, then fit the other 7 · turn, don't flip

Card 19

Fixed fish: F, H, I



Card 20

Fixed fish: A, E, I



Card 21

Fixed fish: F, H, I



Card 22

Fixed fish: A, B, F



Card 23

Fixed fish: A, B, D



Card 24

Fixed fish: B, C, F



Admiral ★★★★★

2 fish are fixed: put them in exactly as shown, then fit the other 8 · turn, don't flip

Card 25

Fixed fish: C, E



Card 26

Fixed fish: E, F



Card 27

Fixed fish: A, G



Card 28

Fixed fish: C, D



Card 29

Fixed fish: A, C



Card 30

Fixed fish: G, J



Solutions

The one and only answer to each challenge card

Card 1 · Little Sailor



Card 2 · Little Sailor



Card 3 · Little Sailor



Card 4 · Little Sailor



Card 5 · Little Sailor



Card 6 · Little Sailor



Card 7 · Deckhand



Card 8 · Deckhand



Card 9 · Deckhand



Card 10 · Deckhand



Card 11 · Deckhand



Card 12 · Deckhand



Card 13 · Fisher



Card 14 · Fisher



Card 15 · Fisher



Card 16 · Fisher



Solutions (continued)

The one and only answer to each challenge card

Card 17 · Fisher



Card 18 · Fisher



Card 19 · Captain



Card 20 · Captain



Card 21 · Captain



Card 22 · Captain



Card 23 · Captain



Card 24 · Captain



Card 25 · Admiral



Card 26 · Admiral



Card 27 · Admiral



Card 28 · Admiral



Card 29 · Admiral



Card 30 · Admiral



Test notes

Record how each card went: player's age, time and hints

Card	Level	Age	Time	Hints	Notes
1	Little Sailor				
2	Little Sailor				
3	Little Sailor				
4	Little Sailor				
5	Little Sailor				
6	Little Sailor				
7	Deckhand				
8	Deckhand				
9	Deckhand				
10	Deckhand				
11	Deckhand				
12	Deckhand				
13	Fisher				
14	Fisher				
15	Fisher				
16	Fisher				
17	Fisher				
18	Fisher				
19	Captain				
20	Captain				
21	Captain				
22	Captain				
23	Captain				
24	Captain				
25	Admiral				
26	Admiral				
27	Admiral				
28	Admiral				
29	Admiral				
30	Admiral				