

The Feeding of the Five Thousand and the Feeding of the Four Thousand are two stories that recount wonders Jesus performs when he provides food for thousands using only a few supplies.

1. Read both stories. What differences do you notice? Which seem consequential?
2. What similarities do you see? Which of those seem consequential?

Some scholars have proposed that Mark is essentially telling two different stories that narrate the same event. Others have pointed out that there are real differences between the two and that Mark would have known that it was only one event, given that he was writing when the first generation of Jesus' followers were still alive.

3. Why do you think Jesus performed this wonder twice?
4. Does the fact that both stories are recorded by Mark (and Matthew) affect your interpretation of them?

We are in a time of great uncertainty. In the time of uncertainty that the five thousand and the four thousand found themselves in, Jesus provided amply.

5. How might Jesus provide for you? How might he provide for others through you?

Questions for families with children:

1. What does it mean to "provide" for someone? Can you think of a time when someone "provided" for you?
2. Has God provided for you? Through your parents? Friends?

Weekly Bible Readings:

March 16 - Isaiah 35:4-7 (read in worship on Sunday)

March 17 - Mark 11:27-33

March 18 - Mark 12:1-12

March 19 - Mark 12:13-17

March 20 - Mark 12:18-27

March 21 - Mark 12:28-34

Passage for Sunday, March 1:

Mark 8:34-38