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## *Power to Provide*

*Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14*

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1. Read the three passages, what are some of the differences? Similarities? How does this demonstrate accuracy of the accounts?
2. What is the purpose of the passage? Why did God choose to incorporate this story into all four of the Gospel narratives? Read John 6:26-27 & 35 – do these verses help us to understand the significance of this miracle and the reason that God incorporated this in all of the Gospels?
3. What phrase does Jesus say in 3 of the 4 gospel accounts? How does this direction to his disciples demonstrate faith?
4. Jesus provided enough bread and fish as the disciples were distributing it – not in advance. They were required to take action on faith that Jesus would provide. Read Hebrews 11 and list other men and women who took risks based on faith that God would provide.
5. Read 1 Kings 17. How does the widow's demonstration of faith mirror the direction that Jesus provides his disciples?
6. Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11 – What does that say about the poor and what our response to them ought to be?
7. After all of the people ate, the disciples were told to gather up the remaining food, to let none of it go to waste. There were 12 baskets full, one for each disciple. What message was Jesus conveying by making sure that there was extra food? Does our answer to Question 2 help us to see the significance of this?