

Jesus feeds 4000 (Mark 8:1-9)

1. Watch the video. How many loaves of bread did Jesus start with? How many baskets of bread and fish did the disciples gather at the end?

2. Let's pretend that you're a disciple of Jesus who knew He was the Son of God. But what does that mean?

3. Why did Jesus feed the 4,000d?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Wild Stories About Jesus and Max7.org): This episode of WILD STORIES ABOUT JESUS retells Mark 8.1-9, detailing Jesus feeding the crowd of 4000. This video is suitable for showing in schools, kids' clubs and churches and could be helpful for family devotions.

1. Watch the video. How many loaves of bread did Jesus start with? How many baskets of bread and fish did the disciples gather at the end?

To help the student, dramatically read Mark 8:4 (second paragraph) to the end. Encourage the student to listen carefully to “observe” the passage:

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.”

And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.”

And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied.

And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. (Mark 8:1-9, ESV)

Help them visualize what took place – i.e. 7 bars of chocolate ends up as 7 baskets of chocolate pieces, etc.

2. Let’s pretend that you’re a disciple of Jesus who knew He was the Son of God. But what does that mean?

Let the student share his thought of what the phrase “Son of God” might mean. Ask questions to explore their thoughts. For example, what do you think of a person who takes 7 loaves of bread, feeds 4 thousand, and ends up with 7 baskets of leftovers? What do you think when you see your leader heal sick people instantly? Etc.

Assure the student that understanding what Son of God means is hard - the disciples had trouble making sense of what they saw. It was all un-natural. Even though they saw this more than once, the disciples still didn’t really know what it meant to be the Son of God.

3. Why did Jesus feed the 4 thousand?

If needed, replay the video to help the student with his observation of the text. Use questions to prompt their observation and logic. There are two important concepts for the student to learn:

1. To the people, Jesus wanted them to know that He loves and cares for them.

2. To the disciples, Jesus wanted them to know that the Son of God has the power of God. By demonstrating real supernatural abilities, Jesus wanted the disciples to logically come to the conclusion that He was the Son of God and that His Father was real.

Both Matthew and Mark records what happens after the feeding of the 4,000. Listen to what Matthew says:

When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread."

But Jesus, aware of this, said, "**O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember** the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered?" (Matt 16:5-10, ESV)

Ask the student: if you knew your leader could make loads of bread from just one loaf, would you worry about getting enough to eat? Why would you not worry?

Jesus is disappointed in the disciples, because they did not believe that what they saw of the feeding was real nor did they trust that Jesus would take care of them.

A second reference is provided for the teacher's preparation:

Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread.

And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? **Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?** When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?" (Mark 8:14-21, ESV)