

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study

September 28, 2025

“Provision” - #4 in the series
Open Hands: *Living as Generous People of God*

Scripture Texts (NIV): John 6:1-14, Philippians 4:19



1. Consider the context of the miracle of Jesus feeding a crowd of thousands from a boy's lunch of five loaves and two small fish.
 - This miracle, recorded in all four of the gospels, occurred in a remote area on the north side of the Sea of Galilee during the most active phase of Jesus' ministry.
 - Jesus had retreated to this spot with his disciples to rest, but was followed by a large crowd eager for more of his teaching and healing ministry.
2. **Read John 6:5-9.**

The hour was late, and it became apparent to Jesus that the crowd of people was hungry and needed to be fed.

 - Even though Jesus knew how he would feed the crowd, why do you think he invited his disciples for their input?
 - What do Phillip and Andrew's responses tell us about how we often view impossible situations?
3. **Read John 6:10-13.**

Although the number of people present was reported to have been “about five thousand men,” that number could have been 2-3 times larger when taking into account women and children.

 - How does this detail deepen our understanding of the significance of this event and God's provision?
 - What is the significance of the leftovers that were gathered after the crowd was fed?
 - In what ways is this miracle a story of community generosity?
4. **Read Philippians 4:19.**

American academic, author, and speaker Brene Brown defines what she calls a “scarcity mindset” as living in a culture of “never enough” where it seems something is always lacking.

 - What can contribute to a scarcity mindset?
 - How can we transition from a scarcity mindset to genuinely trusting in God's provision for us?
5. The miracle of feeding the five thousand reminds us that:
 - We don't have to live in a scarcity mindset.
 - Offer what you have, even if it feels small.
 - Provision often comes through community generosity.
 - This story is a kingdom preview
 - Which of these truths resonates most with you?
6. How can we pray for you?