



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study

Chapter 6

How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures even more and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking for your group.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: ???

Read Scripture / Answer Questions

Closing prayer

Week #6 Reading Plan (October 22 - 28)

Day 1: John 6:1-15

Day 2: John 6:16-24

Day 3: John 6:25-58

Day 4: John 6:59-65

Day 5: John 6:66-71

Day 1: John 6:1-15

The crowd is hungry. Jesus asks a question to test the disciples. When Satan tests us, it is to look for weaknesses. To distract us and tempt us. When Jesus does it, it is to refine our faith. The disciples' responses include doing nothing (Mark 6:36), outrageous spending (John 6:7 - it would cost at least ½ of a year's wages), and to offer up a boy's lunch (John 6:8, which is too small to feed so many). Jesus used the boy's lunch but only after thanking God for it. The disciples looked to human effort first. Jesus thanked God first (echoed again in verse 23). The disciples were looking for earthly fixes.

We can be like the disciples. Where in your life are you trying harder or looking for solutions?

Colossians 3:23-25 tells us we are to work for God and verses like Psalms 27:14 say to trust in God and not despair.

How might inviting God's blessings and direction into your need affect your faith? How might God be using the situation where you are trying harder to refine you?

The boy's lunch seemed not enough. But Jesus. He used the "not enough". Where others may overlook a child's offerings, Jesus did not.

How does this perspective of "not enough" becoming "more than enough" challenge your thinking in who you are or what you have to offer?

The Jews following Jesus would have remembered that one of Elisha's miracles was multiplying 20 barley loaves to feed 100 men with food left over (2 Kings 4:42-44). Jesus now uses the boy's barley loaves to feed more people with less loaves. In John 6:14 people acknowledge that Jesus is the prophet to come.

Jesus tells his disciples in verse 12 to "gather up the broken pieces...so nothing is wasted." Throughout the Old Testament and New Testament, God restores and heals the broken. Nothing, not the broken pieces of bread, not Jesus's broken body, nor our brokenness is wasted.

Where have you seen God using your brokenness?

In Judaism the number 12 symbolizes God's power and authority, it also represents wholeness, completion of God's purpose and perfect governmental foundation. The number 12 representing a perfect governmental foundation may be why people would want to capture Jesus and force Him to be king.

What new thoughts do you have about the message of 12 baskets of broken bread?

Day 2: John 6:16-24

At night with strong winds and rough waters, the disciples are crossing the lake. Jesus was not with them. Then they see Him - He defies physics and walks on water towards the boat. When Jesus says "It is I" it could also be translated as "I am." Both Jesus's power over water and His declaring "I am" point to His being God (Exodus 3:14). He instructs His disciples not to be afraid. Then they waited for Him to come onto the boat. They waited.

What is your posture with God as you wait on Him?

When they rowed 3 or 4 miles they saw Jesus. Verse 21 says that when Jesus got in, "immediately the boat came to the land where they had been heading." The word immediately in Greek is *eutheós* and means at once, directly. There was a miraculous transportation. It is a miracle that is easy to miss when we read it, but it should not be overlooked. Jesus superseded the laws of travel. We see this again in Acts 8:26-40 after Philip leads the Ethiopian to faith in Jesus and baptizes him. Then the "Lord suddenly took Philip away..."

What miracles have God provided in your life that are easy to overlook?

Day 3: John 6:25-58

In verse 26, Jesus says the people came because they were hungry.

What causes you to seek after Jesus?

The people ask Jesus, "What deed does God require?"

What is Jesus' answer in verse 29?

Jesus also said the people did not come because of the signs. Yet in verse 30 they ask for a sign for their belief. They cite remembering Moses provided the mana in the wilderness, bread from heaven. The ironies are that Jesus had just fed them on the other side of the lake (a sign) and He is the bread (mana) from heaven. They ask for more signs to believe.

It is easy to judge the Jewish people, but can you also identify with the people, asking God for more signs to increase your faith?

Verse 34 says, "Sir, give us this bread all the time!" Their words are similar to the Samaritan woman's in John 4:15, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty." Both understood their need. Both see Jesus as a prophet. The woman hears and wants to worship. The Jewish people hear and ask for more signs.

In what ways do you relate to the response of the Jewish people? In what ways do you relate to the response of the Samaritan woman?

Jesus indicates that believing is eating his body and drinking his blood. There is a foreshadowing of the Last Supper when Jesus institutes communion.

Read verses 39, 40, 44, 51, 54 and 58. Jesus says whoever eats / drinks (believes) will be raised up at the last day and live forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 assures us that those who believe are ready to be raised up (rapture). In Genesis 3:22 God speaks with Himself after Adam and Eve sinned. He says they should not eat of the tree of life and live forever. However, after Jesus's sacrifice, paying the price for our sin, when we believe in Him, we can now have eternal life with God. All has been made right in Jesus.

If you have not yet chosen to believe in Jesus, what is holding you back? Are you ready now? If you have chosen to believe in Jesus, are you confident in your salvation?

Day 4: John 6:59-65

One of Jesus's disciples says, "This is a difficult saying! Who can understand it?" (verse 60)

Do you ever read the Bible and agree with that disciple? What things in the Bible are hard for you to understand?

Again Jesus talks of the future, this time of His ascension. He asks, "Then what if you see the Son of Man ascending where He was before?" (verse 62) We know that this actually happens! (Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11) But they did not.

Day 5: John 6:66-71

Jesus asks His 12, if they want to leave, too. Peter says "We have come to believe." (verse 69)

As you study Jesus's words, are they increasing your belief? What keeps you coming back to the Bible and to believing in Jesus?