



## Read the Gospel

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: John 6:1-15 & 25-71

Have you ever invited guests over for dinner and just prior to their arrival wondered, "Will there be enough food for this crowd?" This was the crisis Jesus and His disciples were facing in John 6 as the crowds assembled to hear Jesus' teaching. The only difference is that Jesus knew exactly how He was going to feed the more than five thousand in attendance. He knew because at this appointed time, He was going to provide visual affirmation to the verbal claim He made in the temple regarding His deity. Jesus was going to provide for their physical needs, but in doing so, he would reveal their deepest need – the need to fill the holes in their souls rather than the emptiness in their bellies. The holes in their souls would not be filled with loaves and fish, but rather with Jesus Himself if they would choose simply to believe and live.

## Pray for the Work of the Gospel

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise** God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **Repent** from choosing to turn to other people or things to satisfy your desires.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you seek Jesus above all things and share this gift with others.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit as He directs you to tell others about Jesus this week.

## Engage in the Gospel

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.**

### Read John 6:1-4.

- What is the setting of John 6? (Time and place) (See John 6: 1, 4) Cross reference to Matthew 14 and skim verse 1-21. Why had Jesus chosen to withdraw for a time of renewal and reflection at this time in His ministry?
- What is the significance of the Passover Feast? (See Exodus 12)

### Read John 6:5-9.

- What was Jesus' response when He saw the crowds gathering in John 6:5 and what did He do?
- Why does Scripture say Jesus asked Philip about purchasing bread for the crowd in verse 5? What was Philip's response? In what way can you relate to Philip's response?
- Philip's response fails to include Jesus and His ability to provide. When have you calculated without God? How did God respond? What lesson did you learn?



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- Andrew went looking for food in verse 8-9 and returned with five loaves and two fish. Do you think Andrew's response to Jesus' test was any "better" than Philip's?
- Do you concentrate on circumstances rather than the power of God at work in your life? How might your life and the lives of those who know you be different if you focused on God's power?

### Read John 6:10-15

- The miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand is the only miracle of Jesus that appears in all four Gospel accounts. Why do you think this miracle is so significant?
- Looking at the actual miracle itself we find a series of four things that happened beginning in verse 11. First, Jesus prays. What are the three things that occur after this? What significance do you see in the four things that occurred in the miracle? (Prayer of Jesus, distribution of food, people filled, gathering of remaining food)
- In Genesis 22:1-14, we read the story of God being *Jehovah-Jireh*, the "provider" for Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah. According to this passage in John 6 and the following verses, what does Jesus want to provide for you? (See John 1:29, Philippians 4:19)
- How did the people respond to Jesus after they witnessed the miracle in verses 14-15 and how did many of them misinterpret who Jesus was? What did they want from Jesus? What did Jesus want to give them? (See also John 6:25-29)

### Read John 6:25-71

- Soon Jesus would give His life to provide for the needs of all humanity by offering His own flesh for the sins of the world. How does this knowledge cause you to agree with the statement, "Jesus' desire is not to bring temporary "gratification," but rather lasting "satisfaction" to all who will believe in Him?"
- Many turned away after hearing that Jesus's own flesh would be the thing that would bring ultimate fulfillment to them. When Jesus asks the disciples if they want to leave, what is Peter's response? What is your response? Why?
- How can you use the following equations to help bring understanding to someone who needs Jesus?  

$$\text{Everything} - \text{Jesus} = \text{Nothing} \qquad \text{Jesus} + \text{Nothing} = \text{Everything}$$

## Live the Gospel

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader's responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately a disciple-maker.**

- Identify someone who has everything but possesses nothing because they are without Jesus.
- How can you help them see that their satisfaction can be found in Jesus and nothing else?
- Intentionally invest in them this week. Share your faith story of how Jesus satisfied the holes in your soul.

### **Joshua Code memory verse:**

*For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.* – James 2:26

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