



Week of July 29, 2018

John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.

³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.

⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"

⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,

⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,

¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified.

²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. You're leaving for an overnight trip. How much will you pack? Why? What impacts your decision on whether to bring something?
- B. The last time you interviewed for something: did you expect to get it? What actually happened? Do you generally expect to win or to lose?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 6, it says that Jesus asked Philip the question to test him, yet there is no follow-up discussion with Philip about this. Why do you think Jesus never had a discussion with Philip about the test?
2. In verse 9, there is no mention of the boy offering his loaves and fish. Why do you think there is no mention of the boy either being asked for his food nor offering it?
3. In verse 13, what do you feel is the significance of the leftover fragments filling twelve baskets?
4. In verse 15, what is the significance of the people wanting to take Jesus by force to make him king? Why does Jesus leave?
5. Discuss a time when you were facing a difficult problem in life, and a solution came from a totally unexpected place.
6. What problem are you confronting now, where a solution doesn't seem possible? What can you do to open yourself to possibilities you hadn't envisioned?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about trusting in God's imagination in difficulties you are facing.