

Week 9 Discussion Questions

Text: John 6:1-21

Icebreaker: Which of Jesus' miracles stands out the most to you and why?

1. Read this week's passage. What caught your attention from the text or sermon?
2. Recap: Last week in John 5:30-47, Jesus provided four witnesses to support the claim that he is equal with God. What are the various ways people have responded to Jesus so far in the story?

The Jewish leaders have reacted negatively, becoming angry at Jesus' claims, wanting to kill him. The man at the cleansing pool seemed skeptical of Jesus and reported Him to Jewish authorities. Others marvel at His miracles and signs and seek after Him, wanting to know more about Him and witness His signs or even be the beneficiaries of His work.

3. Jesus says he asks the disciples what they will feed the crowd of people in order to test them. What is it Jesus wants to test in the disciples?

Jesus says He knows what He is going to do, but chooses to not work unilaterally around His people. Instead he involves them in His work and uses it to build trust and faith within the disciples.

4. The miracle of feeding the five thousand occurs at the time of the Passover feast. Read Exodus 12:1-28 for the context of the original Passover. Identify together parallels between the Passover feast and the miracle of feeding the five thousand in John 6.

Both stories are a sort of test of faith, the Israelites faith in God and the Disciples faith in Jesus. Both stories are stories of God's provision over his people's needs. Salvation for the Israelites, and provision of food for the 5000. Both stories end in recognition of Jesus/God's character that leads to worship.

5. There are two episodes in this passage (Feeding the 5000 and walking on water). What are the needs of those around Jesus in each episode?

The need of the crowd is both physical and spiritual hunger. The need of the disciples on the boat is calming of fear.

6. In what way does Jesus satisfy each of those needs?

Jesus provides an abundance of food for the crowd and he immediately delivers the disciples safely to shore in the storm.

7. What expectations do those following Jesus have of him in the stories we've read in John so far, including these two?

In each story, those he interacts with seem to recognize that he is important, calling him a prophet or even the Messiah. Others have expectations of what the Messiah, the Christ, should be like and seem to miss that Jesus fulfills them.

8. In what ways does Jesus meet their expectations?

Jesus provides the abundance of wine and food, he heals the sick, he brings calm in the storm.

9. In what ways does Jesus defy their expectations?

He is not just a prophet there to change their lives in the immediate future, but brings an eternal and lasting salvation that they do not expect or quite understand.

10. Describe a time in your life when you expected Jesus to work in a certain way. How did it go?

** Take time this week to read through the end of John chapter 6 in order to prepare to hear the sermon next week.