

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of John¹

Week 9 ~ Exploring John 6:1-15

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

Day 1: Take some time today and reread the first five chapters of John's Gospel and then in your Gospel of John notebook outline the events that have led up to our passage for this week.

Day 2: Read John 6:1-15 at least twice and then answer the following questions.

- In the opening verse of this passage (v.1) John mentions that Jesus has crossed the Sea of Galilee – wait a minute, what was Jesus' last location according to John chapter 5? Using the maps in the back of your Bible or in a Bible dictionary locate these two points and estimate the distance between them. Examine the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and see if you can find out how Jesus ended up back in Galilee and what has transpired since He left Jerusalem.
- Those who witnessed the miracles in this passage may have recalled similar miracles that occurred in "Old Testament times", what might they remembered from their history?

Day 3: Reread John 6:1-15 then review your answers from yesterday's questions. Now answer today's questions.

- Using the information you gathered from the questions above consider what the disciples of Jesus have witnessed over the days, weeks and months that have led up to their arrival at the Sea of Galilee. How do you think they have changed since they first met Jesus? What events do you think had the greatest impact on them?
- This is our ninth week studying the Gospel of John together, as you go throughout your day today, stop and consider how you have changed since you first encountered Jesus in John chapter 1.

¹ Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

Day 4: Reread John 6:1-15 and then answer the following questions.

- Quickly scan the Gospel of John and list all the events that John describes as taking place in Galilee (there are surprisingly few).
- The other Gospels focus most of their attention on Galilee while John focuses on Jerusalem. Out of all the events that happened in Galilee why do you think John chooses these four (hint: wedding at Cana 2:1-11; official's son 4:46-54; episodes in chapter 21; events of chapter 6)? What (if anything) do these events have in common? How do they fit in to John's overall purpose in writing his gospel?
- If you were asked to tell someone about the four most significant events in your life which ones would they be? Looking back what role do you see God playing in these events?

Day 5: Reread John 6:1-15 and then answer the following questions.

- Why do you think the average person in the crowd that day was following Jesus? What kind of person did they think Jesus was? Describe what you think Jesus felt like as He became aware of these reactions to Him.
- Why were there so many people gathered in one place? Were they just there to see Jesus or was there something else that was drawing crowds of people (hint: see verse 4)?
- Explore the biblical background relating to this feast by reading Exodus chapter 12 then look up "Passover" in a Bible dictionary to see what you can discover.

Day 6: Reread John 6:1-15 and then answer the following questions.

- Based on what you know of the origins of the Passover Feast (Exod 12), write out a short paragraph on the effect that the nearness of the Passover Feast might have had on the expectations of the people as described in this passage.
- How much money did Philip say he would need to feed the crowd "one bite"? Use your Bible references, concordance, or a Bible dictionary to discover the amount in first century terms. Now estimate how much that would be in today's dollars.
- Can you think of times in your life when God has stretched your meager resources the way He stretched the boy's lunch in 6:1-15? In what way do you need a similar miracle to take place today?

