

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 13

CONVERSATION STARTER

If you could follow one person around for 24 hours straight, who would you pick and why?

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

In the first of seven “I am” statements in John, Jesus calls himself the bread of life. On a physical sense, that means Jesus is the very nourishment that sustains us. In Jewish thought, eating and drinking was a common metaphor for ingesting something into your innermost self. By eating and drinking Jesus, we invite him into the innermost part of our beings. Jesus also uses the bread metaphor to describing what it means to believe in him. Those who believe in Jesus, who follow him and heed his teachings, will be given “eternal life.” This isn’t talking about living forever as in a quantity of life, but rather a quality of life. When we believe in Jesus, we’re granted access to a full quality of life. The way of Jesus helps us to become the whole and complete humans God always intended us to be.

Jesus says, “the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” Jesus is hinting at his death to come as the means through which the world can experience life. And when we break the bread during Communion, we remembering this act. We remember Jesus’ sacrifice and that through his shed blood and broken body, Jesus opened the door for the whole world to be made whole and experience true abundant life once more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The crowds are seeking Jesus, and eventually, they find him. In what ways do you find yourself seeking after Jesus? Do you feel like you often find him in those places? Why or why not?
2. What types of people or things do you look to in order to sustain your life? What keeps you going on a day-to-day basis?
3. Have you ever had a hard time following Jesus? Maybe even to the point of wanting to walk away?

4. This chapter is notoriously difficult. What stands out to you? What big questions or ideas do you have lingering after reading the sixth chapter of John?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

There's a lot going on in the text this week. So instead of focusing on just one piece for the practice, we're going to focus on the text as a whole and allow it to speak to you as an individual. After you've read each day, or after you've read it all again on Friday, ask yourself the following questions.

- What does this text teach me about God, Jesus, myself, or the world around me?
- What is God nudging me to take note of, either within myself or around me, this week in light of what I've read?
- What do I need to thank God for in light of what I read this week?
- Where might God be nudging me to grow in light of what I read this week?