

BRMC Small Group Study: John 6:1-15

Participants' Copy

Context:

The Gospel of John.

John's gospel testifies to the fact that God has given the true light to every person in this world through Jesus Christ: the Word who was with God and was God, through whom all things were made. Jesus came, full of grace and truth, and gave to all who received him the right to become children of God. Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. (John 1)

In Chapter 1-5

John the Disciple will at many points make clear who Jesus is (His divinity). To find this, look out for keywords like "testimony". John the Disciple also makes clear the identity of John the Baptist (who testifies that Jesus is the Son of God). Thirdly, John the Disciple will touch on what Jesus came to earth to do: to rescue the earth, and to bring the Kingdom of God through His actions and miracles on earth.

Think about these aspects as you go back to John 1-5 to refresh your memory, and as we move on to John 6.

Introduction:

John 6 begins with one of the most well known miracles performed by Jesus: the feeding of the five thousand. This is the only miracle, other than Jesus' resurrection, that appears in all four Gospels. Note that only the men were counted in the five thousand and it was likely that would be at least double the number if women and children were counted.

In later studies, we will discuss John 6 which talks about the 'Bread of Life'. Just as John 4 talked about the Samaritan woman and Jesus providing 'living water', John 6 shares a similar theme on 'consuming' Jesus who would bring eternal life.

Lesson Objectives:

1. To understand the miracle and why it happened.
 - a. Note: Study this passage in relation to the story of Moses and the providence of manna.

Observation

1. Who are the characters in this passage and how did they interact with one another?

2. What are some key features of this passage? Note the time where this occurred, the place, and the sequence of events.

Interpretation

3. Read Exodus 16. What are some similarities and differences between John 6:1-15 and Exodus 16?

4. What does the parallel between these two passages tell us about Jesus?

5. Is there a significance to the twelve baskets of leftovers (John 6:13)?

6. Why did Jesus not want to be made king (John 6:15)?

Application

7. As the boy offered his 5 loaves and 2 fish to Jesus and allowed them to be multiplied to become a blessing for many, what can you offer to God to be a blessing to his people?

8. Do we question how far our offering will go? What is Jesus' response?

9. How can we live in a way that displays our trust that God provides for us spiritually and physically?