



### Some background for leaders

- John chapter 6 is full of life and wonder. Please refer again to the series background notes from last week but also realize that because of the size of the chapter, you can't expect to get through everything that could be discussed.
- Note the transition themes with the previous chapter.
  - In chapter 5 Jesus was in Jerusalem at a feast of the Jews where they try to use force to kill him. In chapter 6 Jesus is back again in Galilee where he provides a feast and people want to force him to be King. Could you imagine a greater contrast? Of course John wants us to see that Jesus himself is the feast for life that we truly need.
  - In chapter 5 Jesus miracle of healing begins a long discussion where Jesus' amazing claims are met with people's false and/or questionable motives. In chapter 6 the feeding of the 5000 is the presenting miracle which also leads to a long discussion where Jesus' strong claims are also met with various motives from his hearers (eaters). Note also the grumbling
- It would be helpful for you to have a read through Exodus 16:1-20 and God's provision of Manna to the Israelites in the wilderness. The passage makes little sense without this and Jesus claims are all the more striking because of it.
- The signs in John's gospel are not random acts from Jesus. They are filled with symbolism and recall needy Israel's history. It is worth remembering that signs function to point to something. People who only have trust in Jesus because of the signs he is doing tend to have a spurious faith for they are missing the point. The signs keep showing the glory and fulfillment of Jesus and that true life is found in him.

The bottom line: Jesus is not just the one who provides what we need for life, nor is he is a bonus to have around, he is the very provision for true life and that for eternity. The Manna provided in the days of the Exodus was amazing, but it pointed to something far greater. Now that he's here, feed off him and you will live forever!

Enjoying tucking in 😊

### Some questions for your group

#### Read John 6:1-27

- What do we learn about people's motives here in view of Jesus amazing works? What does it suggest about their faith?

#### Read John 6:28-41

- John wants us to see the connection between Jesus' sign and the feeding in the wilderness. (Have someone read through Exodus 16:1-20.)
  - What is the miracle of the loaves and fishes supposed to be a sign of?
  - What kind of bread does the crowd want?
  - What kind of bread is Jesus offering?

#### Read John 6:41-59

- In the history of Israel, the escape from Egypt was the most significant moment of rescue they had ever known. How does Jesus compare his work with the events of the Exodus?
- Why do you think Jesus makes such strong even extreme statements about eating his flesh and drinking his blood?

- What is the affect of these statements?
- What cost is Jesus alluding to as he uses this imagery?

**Life implications:**

- What mistake did the crowd make when they just wanted Jesus to fill their stomachs? Do people make the same mistakes about Jesus today? In what ways?
- How do you feel about a saviour who promises eternal life rather than a full stomach?
- Jesus promises that those who believe in him will never be hungry or thirsty again.
  - Has this been your experience in life following Jesus?
  - Have you been thinking about the right kind of hunger and thirst?

**Prayers:**

- That we would be those who feed off Jesus, making the most of him in our lives rather than simply coming to him when we think we need him (we always need him!)
- That we'd be protected from grumbling and having a critical spirit towards Jesus.
- That we'd stop trusting others things for our lives to be full and be full of thanks for all that Jesus has, and will provide his people with.

