

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To expose and confirm our true motivations for following Jesus. This discussion should help members of the group to evaluate their own motivations together, after having done so, they should be better equipped to walk with others to identify and evaluate the motivations for following Jesus aligned with who He truly is.

ICE BREAKER



Have you ever been surprised by your own (perhaps silly or selfish) reasons for doing something?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passages aloud.

John 6:1-15, 25-35

¹Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

(turn to John 6 in an ESV bible to continue reading verses 8-15, 25-35)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Your motives for following Jesus will show up.

Key Question: What are motives for following Jesus?

1. Are you following because of who you want Jesus to be? (vv. 1-15)
2. Are you following because of what you can get? (vv. 25-29)
3. Are you following because of who Jesus is? (vv. 30-35)

DISCUSSION



- What does the sign of Jesus feeding the 5,000 in John 6 reveal about His character, particularly in terms of His compassion for people's physical needs and spiritual needs?
- John 6:14-15 displays the crowds' response to Jesus' miracle. In what way(s) do we feel tempted to try to "make" Jesus what we want Him to be?
- In John 6:26 Jesus shows that He already knows the reasons in each of our hearts. Have you ever been challenged to rightly pursue Jesus even after the "food" (desired benefits, etc.) run out?
- Jesus corrects the crowds as He invites them to look beyond the sign in John 6:30-35. He declares Himself to be the *bread of life* and tells the crowds that *whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst*. What are some examples of your experiences that prove Jesus right? Talk about times where you've experienced contentment in Christ.
- Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. The Parable of the Sower illustrates the motivations behind the hearts who receive the Word of God. "Examine with each other where motivations might be misled as one either rejects the word, seeks freedom from suffering, or seeks material blessing instead of Jesus."

LIFE APPLICATION



Jesus states in John 6:35, "Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." How does this statement reshape our understanding of spiritual fulfillment? What are some ways we can practically "feed" on Jesus in our daily lives personally and corporately?

Dot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


