

**Home Group Notes**  
**Week of May 9, 2021**  
**John 6:22-42**

**IMPRESSIONS**

When you were in high school or college, did you ever try to impress people so that they would think well of you? What impression were you hoping to make?

*This could be both fun and revealing.*

**LET'S LEARN FROM GOD'S SCRIPTURES**

As we walk through "The Gospel of John," the author (John) has selected stories and teaching to reveal Jesus' identity. Let's review:

Reread chapter 6:1-21. What has Jesus done or said that points to His identity?

*What seems obvious to us today was missed by many in the crowds. Jesus miraculously healed, fed the crowds, and revealed truth like no other person in history.*

Read 6:22-42. What changed the people's impression of Jesus? Of all His works, teachings and promises, why would this be so significant?

*When Jesus fed people, they suddenly wanted to make Him king. This was why:*

- *They were poor and working just to have food every day*
- *They knew the OT stories of God providing manna and meat (cf. loaves and fish) and thought that this made Jesus one like Moses*

As you read 6:25-26, what reason does Jesus offer for why they are now seeking Him? What does that mean?

*Jesus had provided for physical needs and they were hoping that this meant he was now going to take leadership (king) and be their protector and provider.*

Jesus told them to work for food that "endures to eternal life." What error did the people make about his words? What did Jesus mean by His words? (27-29)

*They believed that there were works (cf. works of the law) that God required of them if He was going to continue to bless and provide. They disregarded Jesus' statement.*

- *It was about "eternal life," not just the present*
- *The gift would come through "the Son of Man." They didn't ask about Him*
- *They didn't even inquire about the Son of Man having God's "seal of approval."*

What were the people asking of Jesus? (30-31) Why was this inappropriate at that time?

- *They asked for ANOTHER sign. They knew that God wasn't to be tested or tried.*
- *Jesus had just performed amazing signs. They didn't need more reasons to believe*
- *They immediately went to what God (not Moses) had done in a previous generation. Yet one infinitely greater was in their midst.*

How did Jesus answer their request for a sign? What did He teach them? (32-33)

- Jesus made sure that they understood that the bread of heaven wasn't the work of Moses nor their own works. Rather, it was God who provided.
- This bread was a symbol of Jesus coming from heaven
- Jesus is the who gives life to the world.

This is perhaps the first of Jesus' "I am" statements. What did Jesus mean by this statement? Why is this so significant? (34-36)

- Jesus redirected them to Himself, to God's true provision instead just of a sign
- Jesus, a person, is the giver and sustainer of life
- He alone can satisfy the hunger of our hearts, our eternal longings, our purpose and meaning in life.

Verses 37-40 reveal important truth about Jesus and His mission to save.

- What does He reveal about His relationship with the Father and His mission?  
Jesus was sent by God to bring people to God, to eternal life
- What does He reveal about the success of His mission?  
He will not fail – all who believe (v. 40) will surely give them eternal life (raise)
- What is our part of Jesus mission to bring people into eternal life?  
Our part is to "look to the Son" (put our trust in Him and His work) and believe what He says about Himself (His identity, His mission, His rule). He is the "bread that came down from heaven."

Jesus' words brought on a crisis of faith in the hearers. How would you describe this crisis? What was their key issue?

Instead of believing what Jesus clearly and perfectly revealed, they still had more questions that they thought should be answered before they would trust in Him. This is pride, arrogance – though Jesus clearly commanded them to believe. They thought they knew better. They were resistant to God.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

In what ways can we be like the people seeking Jesus because of the bread? (26)

'Hey God, what have you done for me today? I still want more than just Jesus.'

God can never do enough – we want more.

Also, we tend to focus on our physical well-being.

Is it ever OK to ask God for a sign? If so, when and why? (30-31)

Hmmm? What do you think? Do we need more signs? I could answer yes or no.

Is it OK to ask God to do something to help us know or obey?

The point is to think about our relationship with God and how to live by trust / faith in Him.

The blindness of not seeing the “signs” of Jesus’ identity is still prevalent today. How does this get expressed? What have you learned that helps you share Jesus with people?

Disbelief today is very much about God needing to provide more signs. (e.g. in science, in lack of suffering, in overthrow of evil regimes, etc.) This could be a long list of ‘required’ signs before one is willing to believe.

May our Father continue to work through you to shepherd His family.

Steve