

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Oct 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #7: Calling People to Believe

- Think of a time when God stretched your limited resources (energy, money, time, etc.) far beyond what you could have imagined. Share this with the group.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: The two miracles in this chapter appear in all four Gospels, but all the other signs (as John calls them) in this Gospel are found only here.

Read John 6:1-15

Note: The time of this text was Passover, the strategic historical time when God saved his people from slavery in Egypt. But Passover for John was also the time when God had provided the ultimate rescue through the Savior of the world. The comparison with Moses was clearly intended as the evangelist brought together a number of themes in this chapter.¹ Sitting (as a leader) was considered a symbol of authority.

1. Why did the people follow Jesus? Vs 2 Why didn't they bring food? What did they think about Him?
2. What might have been Jesus' purpose in His question to Philip? Vs 6
3. What lesson do we learn here about God taking and using whatever we give to Him?
4. There was more left over than they started with. What's the significance of this?

Read John 6:16-24

5. How did the disciples react to seeing Jesus? How else might this have impacted them?
6. What exodus symbolism might John have been pointing out to his Jewish audience?
7. What aspects of Jesus' deity do these two miracles illustrate?

Read John 6:25-40

8. Compare and contrast Jesus' interests and the crowd's interests.
9. What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with (this new word for God) the Father?
10. If you were hearing these for the first time, how might you have responded?

Read John 6:41-42 & 66-69

11. How do the Jews (Jewish leaders) and even many of His followers respond? Why?
12. Peter's answer is powerful – what classic truths do we discover here?

APPLICATION

- What do we learn from Jesus about calling people to believe?
- Knowing Jesus is the Lord of Creation, in any situation or problem you can ask Him to create a solution. What needs do you bring to Him today?

The disciples are contrasted with the youngster who brought what he had. They certainly had more resources than the boy. But they knew they didn't have enough, so they didn't give anything at all. The boy gave what little he had, and it made all the difference. If we offer nothing to God He will have nothing to use. But He can take what little we have and turn it into something great.

– Life Application Bible Notes, page 2235.

¹ Borchert, G. L. (1996). *John 1-11* (Vol. 25A, p. 251). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.