



Week 10: John 4-6

Study Guide for the week of March 2-8

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

Spend time in John 6:60-69 this week.

Why do you think Jesus' teachings caused many followers to desert him? The reasons likely included the followers' dashed expectations of a Warrior-Messiah, Jesus' refusal to give into their selfish requests, Jesus' emphasis on faith rather than deeds, and the simple fact that some of Jesus' teachings are just hard to understand.

As we continue to grow in faith, we will also continue to find lessons that are difficult to understand and to live out. List those lessons from Jesus that seem especially difficult to you right now. Which category do they seem to fall in, dashed expectations, selfish requests, greater emphasis on faith, or just plain difficult to understand? Are you more likely to give up when confronted by a difficult teaching, to ignore it, or to turn away from Jesus?

Ask God to show you what his teachings mean and how they apply to your life. Ask for the courage to act on God's truth, rather than giving up, ignoring, or rejecting it. Ask for the strength and conviction to reply as Peter did, "You have the words that give eternal life. I believe and I know you are the Holy One of God."

Discussion starters

1. List the characteristics of the Samaritan woman that made her an unlikely candidate for a conversation with Jesus. Did these characteristics create a barrier for Jesus? What was the surprising outcome of this unlikely woman and her conversation with Jesus? (see John 4:39). Does this knowledge change your perspective on the "right" traits needed to be an evangelist, a person who shares the story of Jesus with others? If so, how?
2. Jesus answered the Samaritan woman's question about the correct location for worship by replacing her concern for location with the concern for the motivation for worship. Reread John 4:19-24. How do you prepare for worship? What do you expect from worship? Is worship about you, critiquing the musicians and sermon or about God, coming into his presence and serving him?
3. Reread John 4:46-54. Trace the growth of the official's faith (check verses 47, 50, and 53). Faith grows as we exercise it. Do you regularly exercise your body? How? Your mind? How? Your faith? How?
4. Whose approval do you seek? Make a list of those people you want to please. Reread Jesus' conversation with the religious leaders, John 5:31-44. Whose approval is Jesus seeking? How would your life change if you first sought to please God before attempting to please others?
5. Reread John 6:1-13. Have you ever felt like Philip and Andrew, sure you don't have enough resources for the situation you're facing? How did you respond? Did you notice the leftovers in verse 13? What lesson about God can you learn from the leftovers?

Bible verse to memorize: John 6:68-69

(over)

Serving opportunity

Hope is embarking on another church-wide project for Lent, this year called hopeslist. Hopeslist is a community-wide garage sale with the goal of donating all the proceeds from the sale to five local missions.

The giant garage sale will be Friday, March 6 from noon – 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Your small group and family can get involved by volunteering to help with the sorting, pricing, and sale. For details on volunteer opportunities and to register as volunteers, visit www.hopewdm.org/hopeslist.