

Small Group Study Guide

*When
Pigs
Fly* 

March 22, 2020

Lessons over lunch

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for John and his willingness to document the signs of Jesus and we thank you for preserving this ancient document for us. Father, we long to find a life filled with peace that exceeds all understanding. We long to be in an authentic relationship with You. But too often we have reduced you to just a gift giver. So today I pray that we would become followers of your son and not just consumers. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: John 6:2-15 Common English Bible (CEB)

2 A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. 3 Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. 4 It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival. 5 Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" 6 Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary[a] worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit." 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 9 "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. 12 When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." 15 Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain

Scripture Passage Continued: John 6:25-27 Common English Bible (CEB)

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” 26 Jesus replied, “I assure you that you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate all the food you wanted. 27 Don’t work for the food that doesn’t last but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Human One will give you. God the Father has confirmed him as his agent to give life.”

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps one of the most famous signs Jesus performed was feeding 5,000+ people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Those that followed Jesus thought he was finally getting to the point of what he could do for them. They were more enamored with the signs than with what the signs were pointing to.

Let’s not be consumers. Let’s be followers. Jesus’ followers changed the world once. Perhaps we can do that again. *“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”* John 6:27

QUESTIONS

- 1) How would you define an “authentic” relationship?
- 2) Have you been in a relationship where you or the other person had an agenda? How did that go?
- 3) Read John 6:2–15, where the apostle John recounts the story of Jesus feeding 5,000+ people.
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
 - What do you think it felt like for the disciples to have thousands of people approaching because they wanted something from them?
 - In verse 13, John provides a detail about the amount of bread left over. Why do you think he included this?
- 4) Read John 6:25–27. Describe how the disciples and the crowd may have felt being called out by Jesus.
- 5) What is one thing you have asked God to give you that he didn’t or hasn’t yet? Has this disappointment led you to take steps toward God or away from him? What thoughts and/or feelings led you in that direction?
- 6) What can you do this week to follow Jesus more closely? How can you demonstrate more love for one another? Is there someone in particular to whom you could offer more grace and forgiveness? How can this group encourage you?