

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) All of us need to be vigilant in the different teaching ministries and Bible studies in which we involve ourselves. The question which people ask in John 6:28 is a direct result of the “seal” of God being on Jesus Christ’s teaching ministry. Have you ever been involved in a church or ministry setting where the priorities were so different that this question was never asked by the people? Share with your group.
- B) Let’s be crystal clear here, if you are experiencing teaching (church, radio, etc.), a small group, a Sunday school class, a Christian friendship, a Christian marriage, etc., where you are not being challenged with this kind of question on a regular basis -- CHANGES ARE NECESSARY!! This is the question which obedience begs. Share with your group if you currently find yourself in a situation where you feel some aspect of your Christian walk has “stagnated.”
- C) What can be done? First, let’s make sure our ideas are from the Word of God... Jesus said that the main issue is one of belief. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is who He says He is in the Bible? If not, spiritual growth is impossible (I didn’t make that up, God did -- John 6:35-40). Discuss with your group anything that is stopping you from believing in Christ.
- D) What about those of us who are Christians, but are still “sitting still” in our Christian lives? What can be done? The word “believe” is an action word in the Bible. It is not enough to simply believe Christ in our heads, it must be lived out in our lives. Is there an area of your life which needs “belief” in order for you to move forward in your relationship with Jesus Christ?
- E) Perhaps there are some ‘outside forces’ which are contributing to some struggle in your life with Christ. Can you share those with your group and then pray for accountability together? Pray that our belief will be lived out in the real world!

Food Or Faith?

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 17th, 2004 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF MY FATHER, THAT EVERYONE WHO BEHOLDS THE SON AND BELIEVES IN HIM WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND I MYSELF WILL RAISE HIM UP ON THE LAST DAY.
~JOHN 6:53 (NASB)**

1) Faith Or Food?

- A) When the crowd finds Jesus at Capernaum after the ‘Feeding of the 5,000,’ they ask Him how He got to Capernaum in the boat, since clearly He had not left in the boat (John 6:22-25). Jesus completely ignores their question and dives into the real matter at hand, food vs. faith (John 6:26-27).
- B) In His classic style, Jesus tells the people to quit working for (concerning your life with...) the physical world (the “food” of vs. 27), and begin to be concerned with the “food which endures to eternal life” (6:27).
- C) Jesus notes that God “has set His seal” on Him (6:27)!

- D) The people respond to Jesus and ask Him "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" (John 6:28). The people appear to make the transition from food to faith!
- E) This response of the people is a key mark (affirming of the "seal") of a teacher who is preaching the truth of the Gospel (John 6:28)!
- F) Jesus responds to the 'faith' question by presenting ironies of 'working for the works of God' contrasted against the "work of God" being simply 'believing in Jesus Christ' (6:29).
- G) The people then show their true colors. They want signs, they want food. They have their Messianic expectations, and they want them met in their way. Once again, the crowd brings up Moses (their hero) as the source of the Manna miracle (Exodus 16:13-21) to compel a miracle (6:30-31).
- H) Jesus gently brings the people in closer with His "truly, truly I say to you..." (i.e. 'listen closely, this is the truth of what you just said...' -- 6:32-33).
- i) Jesus clarifies that it was not Moses who gave, but God.
 - ii) Further, that bread was physical bread on the ground, not the "true bread" I am speaking to you about.
 - iii) Finally, Manna "was given" for a short time, but the bread I am talking about "is given" and is ongoing.

2) I Am The Bread Of Life

- A) The crowd, anticipating that Jesus is the Messiah, ask Him for the bread from Heaven, thinking they will never be physically hungry again (6:34).
- B) Jesus' response is stunning. "I am the bread of life..." His words passionately bring together several thoughts in stunning clarity (6:35-40).
- i) I am the bread from Heaven, believe and you will never hunger (6:35).
 - ii) Believe, and you will never thirst (6:35). This reminds us of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan Woman (I am living water -- John 4:10-14).
 - iii) You have seen (you understand my words), but you do not believe (you do not receive/accept my words) (6:36). If you will 'behold me' (understand) and believe (receive), you will have eternal life (6:40).
 - iv) God has given Jesus those who will believe (6:37). He will not miss one, I will not 'cast out' (miss) any who God has given me (6:37). Those who God has given Me will have eternal life because it is God's will (6:38-39).
 - v) If you will trust in Christ, then Christ Himself will deliver you from death to eternal life -- Himself (6:40).
- C) This direct teaching of Jesus about Himself being the bread of life deeply disturbs "the Jews" (differentiated from "the crowd of 6:24ff). Jesus reserves his most direct and difficult words for this group of religiously experienced men (6:41-58).