

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LESSON 7

Chapter 6

“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” John 6:27

At times, we feel overwhelmed with the cares and concerns of our daily lives. We often worry if we will have enough of the things that we want and need. And then a crisis comes along, and we feel like we are sinking. Our lesson this week gives us insight into the perspective that the Lord encourages us to have during these experiences. There are many lessons in this chapter that apply as much to our lives today as they did to the disciples' lives.

DAY #1 *Pray before you start your lesson each day.*

As we begin this lesson on “the Bread of life,” let us view our study time as a time of spiritual feasting. Our physical bodies need food, so also, our spiritual life needs the nourishment that comes from the Word of God. Stop and pray that you will hunger to learn all He has to teach you this week. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” **Matthew 4:4**

Read John 6:1-21. Read through the first 21 verses of this chapter again, and list the important facts. Give a brief title to this section.

Title:

DAY #2 Read John 6:1-13

- 1) Jesus already knew “what He would do” about feeding the hungry multitude. Explain why you think He asked Philip “Where shall we buy bread?”

- 2) List the obstacles to their ability to feed the people, i.e. lack of grocery stores near by. Name as many as you can discover. Comment on any insight you may have on the situation.

- 3) Do you believe that God knows the solution to every problem? Why or why not? Back up your answer with scripture, if possible.

- 4) Life is full of challenges, problems, crises, closed doors and seemingly insurmountable circumstances. Share how the following scriptures teach us to view these things with a renewed perspective (God’s).
 - A. **Psalm 20:7-8** “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.”

 - B. **Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And *lean not on your own understanding*; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”

 - C. **Romans 5:3-5** “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

- 5) In **John 6:8-9**, we see Andrew, Peter’s brother, bringing someone to Jesus, as in **John 1:41-42**. This time it was a little boy.
 - A. What impresses you about the fact that even though the resources offered were far from enough to meet the need, Andrew still brought them to Jesus?

B. The little boy who gave up his lunch is an example to us all. Share in what areas his actions are an example to you.

- 6) In **John 6:10-13**, we read the miraculous conclusion of this story. What encourages you personally as you read about the multitude fed with plenty to spare?

DAY #3 Read John 6:14-21

- 1) In **verses 14 and 15**, we see that the people were impressed because they were fed. Why do you think the people wanted to make Jesus their earthly king?
- 2) At this point the popularity of Jesus with the people was the highest. They offered to make Him “king.” He could have had the *kingdom without the cross*. How did Jesus respond to the favor of men and the offer of exaltation in the eyes of men in the following verses?

A. **John 2:23-25**

B. **John 6:15 and Matthew 14:23**

C. **Matthew 4:1-3 and Matthew 4:8-10**

D. **John 18:36**

NOTEWORTHY When we ask two people to tell about a book they have read or an event they have observed, they will each focus on different aspects. It doesn’t mean they are in conflict. Their emphasis is merely different. The same is true with the four gospels. Often two or even all four will recount a particular event. But the same details will not always be given in each gospel story. This does not mean they contradict, but instead they compliment each other. As we read about the storm tossed boat and Jesus walking on water, we will also refer to Matthew to gather additional interesting details.

- 3) Combining the details given in **John 6:16-19** and **Matthew 14:24-27**, what would have been the emotional, mental, and physical state of the disciples? It is helpful to mentally put yourself in their position as you ponder.
- 4) Jesus said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid” **John 6:20**. Carefully ponder these important words. What assurance and comfort did they communicate in the midst of troubling circumstances to the disciples then *and to you today*?
- 5) Read **Matthew 14:28-33**. Peter must have been excited to see Jesus. He was the bold one. He got out of the boat and kept his eyes on Jesus. What was his “*downfall*” shown in **verse 30**? How can you relate to this experience?
- 6) What was the response of the disciples when they realized that Jesus was in control of and not subject to the natural elements?

DAY #4 Read John 6:22-71

Record the facts in the second section of **chapter 6**. From this portion of the chapter, take particular notice of the statement of Jesus “*I tell you the truth*” (New King James version). This is stated four times in this last section of **chapter 6 (vs. 26, 32, 47, 53)**. He was saying, “this is important, pay attention.” Also note the many times the words believe, not believe, bread of heaven, and bread of life are mentioned.

Title:

DAY #5

BIBLICAL HISTORY BACKGROUND When God delivered the Jewish nation out of slavery, they had to pass through the desert on their way to the promised land, a trip that needlessly lasted 40 years. God (not Moses), provided food for them on their journey. Every morning, a wafer type food fell from heaven. **Optional** Read the account in **Exodus 16:4, 16:14-15** and **16:31**.

In **John 6:26** we see that Jesus understood that the true desire of the people was for a “*free lunch*.” The priority of Jesus was in feeding the spiritual, not the physical.

“Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

- 1) ***Eating the Bread of Life*** In the Middle East, having a meal with someone is viewed as actually becoming one with that person because the shared food becomes part of each person’s body. When Jesus spoke about “*eating His flesh and drinking His blood*,” He was speaking of feeding us through His Spirit. He gave Himself so that we might live! Apply the following scriptures with the spiritual application of partaking of the “life” Jesus is offering. Share personal insights.

A. **John 6:56**

B. **Galatians 2:20**

C. **John 6:63**

- 2) Read **John 6:28-29**. God is not looking for us to perform mighty works or for us to perfect ourselves. We cannot build a bridge to Him by our own efforts.

A. From **verse 29**, what is the “work” of God?

B. Write out a dictionary definition of “believe.” It is helpful, but not necessary to use a Bible dictionary if you have one.

C. In your own words, write out the definition of faith as given in **Hebrews 11:1**.

- D. We often cause the “belief” process to be more complicated than it is. Jesus valued faith that showed a surrender of self efforts. He even honored an admission of someone who needed Jesus to help him believe. Read **Mark 9:24** and share how the example of this man can help us when our faith is weak. Is there an area in your own life that you have had difficulty surrendering to God in complete trust? Pause and pray now that the Lord will increase your faith.

DAY #6

1) Read **John 6:66-69**.

- A. What was the sad response of some?
- B. The teachings of Jesus only seemed to reinforce Peter’s commitment. What was his response, and how do you relate to his “no turning back” attitude?
- C. Blend the statement that Paul makes in **Philippians 3:13-14** with Peter’s in **John 6:68**. Share how this can encourage and be an example to you.

2) Look over this week’s lesson, and share three areas that the Lord ministered to your heart. What did you learn? What encouraged, prompted, or exhorted you? Is there any area in your life that you will commit to Him to change?

A.

B.

C.

Take time in prayer now as you finish this lesson. Ask Him to feed you and help you to grow in Him. Thank Him for His provision of the “**Bread of Life**.”

*“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.” John 6:31*