

Small Group Discussion Guide

“At the Movies” (pt. preview) – 9/7/14

Scripture: John 6:22-52

Bottom Line: Jesus is better than anything else life offers.

INTRODUCTION: Where do you go for satisfaction? If we're honest, we all deeply long for God. In multiple ways, Jesus shows us this through his life. He is God the Son, the “I AM”. Today we will look at Jesus' teaching as he uses bread to illustrate that he is even more necessary for true life than food.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 6:22-31

What was the motive of the people in following Jesus?

- They wanted food. Wanting food isn't necessarily bad, but when compared to what Jesus was really offering, their desires were too small and short sighted.

What did Jesus mean in verse 27?

- Jesus does not mean that we should not work for food. Elsewhere the Bible says that if a man does not work, he should not eat. What Jesus is saying is that the trajectory of our lives should be geared toward following Jesus more than just earning enough money to pay for our stuff.

Read John 6:32-40

In this context, why is the bread analogy important? What message does it convey about God?

- He is the one who satisfies. In the wilderness, he is hope.

How does verse 40 give you hope?

- Whoever hears the gospel and trusts Jesus for forgiveness and not their own ability will receive eternal life. Jesus promises to raise us from the grave on judgment day. We will literally receive a new body.

Read John 6:41-59

What does verse 44 reveal to you about God's actions before a person comes to faith?

- God is active in the redemption of his children. Because we are dead in our sins (Eph. 2:1), we are incapable of coming to God on our own. God opens our eyes upon hearing the gospel and we realize our need for Jesus for forgiveness.

Jesus knows that he is going to the cross eventually. Verses 50-59 are hard to understand apart from knowing that Jesus is talking about offering up his body as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

Jesus isn't the means to an end in our lives. He is the end goal. Where have you been guilty of making Jesus the means to an end goal?

- It doesn't have to be bad things that are your end goal. In fact, most of the time it will not be. The primary difference here is using Jesus as a genie or worshiping him as King.

What is the underlying motive in your heart when you are using Jesus this way?

How does God speak in Scripture against looking at him in this way?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

What does repentance look like for you?

- Repentance is turning from sin and to God.

Jesus is better than anything this life can offer. How do we treasure Jesus in life?

- Humble Prayer
- Work hard to draw close to Jesus, not to earn forgiveness, but responding freely out of gratitude for what has already been earned for you.
- Find ways to stir your affections for God.
- Find a team to serve on Sunday.