

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 08.21.2022

MORE THAN ENOUGH – JOHN 6:1-13

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel shared “Do you guys remember what happened at the start of the Covid 19 pandemic a few years ago? As soon as they locked us down, everyone went out and immediately bought up all the toilet paper. You couldn’t find it anywhere. Of course, the weird thing about that is Covid doesn’t affect your bowls. It affects your lungs. So, why did everyone buy up all the toilet paper? Because there was this fear that there wasn’t going to be enough. This fear of running out or not having enough affects all kinds of areas in our lives. We wake up in the morning and think to ourselves, ‘I didn’t get enough sleep.’ Later, when we go to bed we think, ‘I didn’t get enough done.’ There aren’t enough hours in the day. There isn’t enough money in the bank. But God is different. He has infinite capacity and unlimited resources. His supply always exceeds whatever the needs are. He never gets depleted or exhausted. The trick is learning how to trust Him to make up the gap. The story we’re going to look at today wonderfully illustrates how God wants to meet all our needs. He wants to take that situation where it feels like there’s not enough and turn it into a situation where there’s more than enough. But before He can do that, we’ve got to trust Him with our problems. Let’s get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from the message this last weekend?
2. What do you think of when you hear the word “needs”?
3. Which things would you count as basic needs? Are spiritual needs basic?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

As the Father distributed manna to Israel under the ministry of Moses (see Ex. 16; Num. 11), so now through Jesus’ ministry the Father distributes bread to the crowd. Both the Father and the Son care about people’s bellies. The Father provided bread after delivering Israel from physical and spiritual bondage in Egypt. Here in John 6, Jesus—the Bread of Life provided by the Father—cares for the crowd’s hunger as He looks toward delivering God’s people from bondage once and for all. God provides for our basic needs, physical and spiritual, and we see this most concretely in Jesus.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:1-3

1. Why is it important to keep in view what the phrase “after this” refers to?
2. What did this previous “sign” indicate about Jesus’ relationship to the Father (see 5:17-18)?
3. Why were the crowds following Jesus, according to verse 2? Why do you think John and the other Gospel writers distinguish between the disciples and the crowds?
4. How might this passage speak to our understanding of evangelism? How might it speak to our understanding of discipleship? How should we differentiate between these two areas?

Following Jesus means more than coming to Him in order to see miracles or to have our stomachs filled. Disciples are those who follow Jesus not only because of His works, but also because of His words and because of who He is (see John 6:66-69). Jesus then turns to highlight for His disciples who He is by feeding the crowd of 5,000.

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:4-11

1. How might Jesus’ identity speak to why Jesus is able to feed the 5,000?
2. How does Jesus use the crowd’s need for food as an opportunity to teach His disciples about His divine identity (see especially v. 6)?
3. What does Jesus’ concern about the people’s hunger reveal about how He prioritizes physical needs?
4. Without naming someone specific, when have you seen someone wrongly ignore a physical need in order to meet a spiritual need? How does Jesus’ example here correct this type of mistake?

Jesus gave the disciples the specific task of finding food for the crowd. He not only taught them to trust Him to provide in ministry, but also to trust Him to provide for their own physical needs in the meantime.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:12-13

1. What do you think is the significance of there being precisely 12 baskets of food? What should we conclude about Jesus’ ability to meet our needs as we minister in His name (see Matt. 6:33)?
2. What is the crowd’s response to Jesus’ miracle? What do you think is the significance of the title “the Prophet” (cf. Deut. 18:15)? How can we today become guilty like the crowd of forcing would-be political saviors into office? Why is such a desire misplaced?

This passage shows that we can respond to Jesus in the wrong way, even in declaring him to be the Messiah (i.e., “the Prophet”). We can misidentify Jesus as primarily a political Savior when in truth He came to save us from something more threatening than Roman oppression, namely the penalty of sin. If we misunderstand the nature of Jesus’ ministry as recorded in His first coming, we misunderstand who He is as the Bread of Life come into the world.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

1. Why should we, like John, distinguish between the “crowd” and the “disciples”? Why does being a disciple of Jesus mean more than showing curiosity about Jesus and His works or finding ways that He can meet our needs?
2. Why is it dangerous to enjoy the gifts that Jesus gives us more than enjoying Him as the Gift?
3. Jesus was mindful of a “teaching moment” in which He could illustrate His identity to His disciples. How can we learn from His example to be mindful of ways to teach others about who Jesus is?
4. Are there any circumstances or situations in your life right now in which you are doubting God’s ability to work?
5. Is there anything going on in your life in which you have concluded there is too little for God to work with?

PRAYER - Close your group time in prayer. Thank God for being all that we need. Pray for the power to believe and experience that Jesus truly satisfies more than anything else in this world.

📖 *“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.” (2nd Corinthians 9:8 NLT)*