

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 6:48-58

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Sermon Summary:

Jesus fed the 5,000 one day, and the next he taught them the deeper significance of what his feeding them pointed to: Jesus is the true Bread of Life that came down from God to give them real life. Well, now it's decision time. What will they do with that information? Will they receive it and believe in Jesus?

Jesus emphasised his point through the metaphor of eating & drinking. Some missed his point altogether. In the 1st century, some believed he spoke of cannibalism when he told them to eat his flesh & drink his blood. In later centuries, Catholics taught that unless we eat & drink the bread & wine at communion, we do not have eternal life (6:53). But Jesus meant neither of these. Again, using eating & drinking as a metaphor, Jesus asked us to receive him, or ingest him in order to receive eternal life. And even more, to continue to ingest him in a habitual way to abide more intimately in him. It's decision time!

Discussion:

1. Eat & live makes perfect sense to you & I because we know what happens if we don't eat, or if we don't eat a healthy diet, or if we eat too much. What have you found helps you eat & drink Jesus more?
2. What decision is Jesus encouraging the crowd to make when he invites them to eat & drink him? Talk about when you decided to receive Jesus & God's eternal life

3. From Jesus' words in 6:53, talk about how people of his day thought him mad by asking them to be cannibals?
4. Catholics and some Orthodox Christians believe that we receive eternal life through literally eating & drinking the bread & wine at the Lord's Table/Communion. Talk about how this does not make sense in the immediate context of John 6, and from the broader context of John's Gospel (3:16, 36, 5:24, 20:31).
5. When Jesus said, "*Unless you eat my flesh & drink my blood you have no life in you,*" (v. 53) what did he mean? And likewise in v. 54, when he states the opposite, what did he mean?
6. How important are all the "whoever's" in John 6:54-58? What do they imply?
7. How do we abide or remain in Jesus?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for God to increase your appetite to eat more and more of Jesus each day.
- Pray for one another.