

(1) Have each person share briefly on the many ways they have witnessed others striving to gain acceptance with God. What have you seen in the experience of others in the church, or outside the church, where attempts were made to cleanse one's conscience of the stain of sin? Have you personally done this yourself? If so, in what ways, and how did God set you free from it?

(2) In John 6:47 Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life." Does this seem too simple? What is it about our souls that causes us to want to do more than simply believe? Read these texts aloud and then discuss them: John 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:35; 7:38; 12:46; 20:30-31.

(3) What does it mean to "believe"? Is this merely agreeing in your mind with the bare facts of the gospel? If it is more, what is it? And how do we avoid adding to the simplicity of belief and making our salvation dependent on works?

(4) In John 6 Jesus is making his appeal based on the universal spiritual hunger in human hearts. What are some of the things that people are starving to experience, and why do they so often turn to anything other than Jesus to find satisfaction?

(5) How do we know that Jesus isn't advocating literal cannibalism when he insists that to be saved we must "eat" his flesh and "drink" his blood? What do these words mean? How does the larger context of John 6 help us in understanding what Jesus meant?