

the gospel of

# JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters of 5-10 of John's Gospel. John shows us that He is the One. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the One with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the One with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the One who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

## **THE ONE WITH THE POWER**

Read the text: John 6:1-33 (vs. 1-15 included below)

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given

thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

In today’s passage, we see that Jesus is the One with the power to meet our need, the One with the power we don’t realize we need, and the One with the power we *really* need. Jesus is aware of our need and has the power to use our insufficient means to meet it. He sees the hungry crowd and wants to care for them, using the meager lunch of a boy to do it. When we bring what we have, which is not nearly enough, Jesus uses it to do amazing things! When we face very real danger and fears, Jesus shows up. Just as He came to His disciples on the water during the storm, He comes to be with His people and take care of them in the midst of the danger. And Jesus offers something much better than another physical sign to the hard-headed disciples. He offers to feed them with Himself, the Bread of Life, the power they *really* need.

### **Discussion Questions:**

*These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.*

1. How do you think you’d respond to Jesus if you were with Him on the day He fed the 5,000? What would you do if He turned to you, like He did Philip, and said, “where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” Try to put yourself in that situation and answer honestly how you might respond.

2. Philip's response was to think "horizontally." He immediately began to crunch the numbers and calculate how much it would cost to feed this crowd and was quickly overwhelmed at the idea. How do you think horizontally like Philip? How do you try to bring your best strategy and resources to solve your problems rather than look to Jesus? Can you think of a specific problem you feel overwhelmed by? How are you thinking horizontally about it?
  
3. Andrew responded by bringing all he could bring, a boy's meager lunch. It's like Andrew was saying, "Here's all I got, what can you do with it?" Jesus invites us to bring what we have, but to also acknowledge it's not sufficient...that we ultimately need Him to work. What is Jesus inviting you to bring to Him and trust that He can do something with it?
  
4. When Jesus appeared to His frightened disciples, walking on the sea in the midst of the storm, He told them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Jesus doesn't discount the fear they're experiencing. Instead, He tells them that He is with them (It is I) and because of that they don't need to fear. Jesus doesn't discount our fears, but promises to be with us in the midst of them. What do you fear? Be honest and specific. How have you experienced Jesus' presence with you in your fear? How might you "practice His presence" with you through times of fear?