



## Week 10: John 6-8

### Study Guide for the week of March 6-13, 2011

#### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week spend time reflecting on [John 8:1-11](#). The religious leaders are once again attempting to catch Jesus in an unwinnable situation: either condemn a woman to death for the sin of adultery which only the Romans could do, or violate the Law of Moses. They, however, have already broken the Law of Moses themselves by bringing only the woman to Jesus, and not the man also. It takes two to be caught *in the act* of adultery. (See Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22) Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you self-righteously condemned another rather than checking your own heart and life? Jesus knelt down and wrote something in the dust which leads scholars to speculate on what he was writing. Could it have been a list of the hidden sins of the leaders standing around him demanding the death penalty for the woman? If Jesus were writing down your sins, what would you see taking shape in the dust? Does that change your feelings toward others “caught” in “public” sin? Why or why not? Jesus’ wise response to his persistent questioners caused them to drop their rocks and leave, the eldest first, followed by the younger. Why do you think the elders left first? How have you grown in spiritual maturity as you’ve grown in years and experience? Carefully outline this event, noting the order of what Jesus did and said. The grace illustrated in this story is so radical that some very early copies (manuscripts) of the Bible left it out. Where do you see amazing grace in this event? How does this event affect your understanding of your place with God? Jesus first saved the woman’s life with his own life and told her that he did not condemn her. Only then, did he urge her to change and “sin no more” because he didn’t want her to remain in her sinful ways. Confession and repentance mean a change in one’s heart and life. We cannot earn grace, but we respond to the gift of grace by making an effort (again with God’s grace) to be obedient to Jesus commands. Jesus offers grace and forgiveness to you. Where is he telling you to “sin no more”? Have you decided to tap into God’s grace and make the effort to change? Spend time each day this week confessing your sins. Consider using Psalm 51 as a tool in your confession. After confessing, read 1 John 1:9 and know God will forgive your sins. Then ask for God’s strength to change your heart and life so you may “go and sin no more.”

#### Discussion starters

1. Ice Breaker Question: What is the most people that you have had to feed at one time? Explain the situation. What did you serve?
2. Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. [John 6:1-15](#) The Feeding of the 5000 is found in all four gospels. (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10b-17) This event must have been significant to the very early Church in their understanding Jesus. What does this miracle teach you about Jesus?
4. [John 6:25-69](#) As you read this passage, list the incredible promises Jesus gives in this passage and count the number of times Jesus makes reference to “raise them up at the last day.” Outline the growing controversy that leads up to verse 66. What teachings of Jesus do you find hard to accept? How do you find the exchange between Jesus and the Twelve (Peter) in verses 66-70 to be meaningful? How do you experience Jesus giving you the “words of eternal life?”
5. [John 6:35](#) This is the first of the seven “I am” sayings of Jesus in John’s gospel. As you read through the rest of the gospel see if you can identify all seven. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” What would be the difference if he would have said, “I give you the bread of life.”? How has Jesus been the bread of life for you?

6. John 7 What did you learn about Jesus from reading this chapter? How do you experience the Holy Spirit as “living water?”
7. John 8: 42-47 These are some particularly challenging words. Read the context that led to Jesus’ words (verses 31-41). Who is Jesus speaking to? (see verse 31) What do understand Jesus to mean in verse 44? What does Jesus’ teaching here say about the state before God when we are born? Read also 1 John 3:7-10. In our baptism service it says, “We are born children of a fallen humanity.” How does this help you to understand our sin as a *condition* we are born with more than particular things we think, say, and do that violate God’s values? How does all this help you to understand our need for Jesus?

## **Bible verse to memorize: John 6:68-69**

### **Caring Time**

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is good to end with a question that prompts prayer for one another. This week’s question involves more vulnerability than in past weeks. Sin seemed to be a topic that showed up in the chapters we read from John’s gospel this week. With that in mind, you are encouraged to trust each other and answer this question:

- Where in your life are you struggling with sin? After a person shares, pray together for that person before moving on to the next. You are encouraged to use 1 Corinthians 10:13 as you pray over each other.

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that small group is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time.