
Day 1 / Memorize: Choose one verse and work on memorizing it this week. Great options are 6.35, 6.37, 6.39, or 6.40.

Learn: Prayerfully read John 6.22-29. Jesus had miraculously fed five thousand men plus women and children, and they got very excited about that, so Jesus retreated into the hills to pray and sent his disciples across the north end of the lake, lest the crowd try to make him king. That night, Jesus walked across the lake and calmed the storm, which only the disciples saw; then they landed at Gennesaret. Now the people have found Jesus in Capernaum, back on the northwest side of the lake, but was he impressed that they pursued him? No, rather he admonished them: they loved the miracle, but did not interpret the sign [v.26]; they wanted tangible and temporal benefits [like food], but Jesus wanted them to seek something more important [v.27]. Notice that while Jesus drew a contrast between temporal food and eternal food, the crowd jumped on his use of the term “work,” so they asked him what they must *do* to get this food that is eternal in nature [v.28]. What is Jesus’s answer, what do we have to *do* to get eternal food that leads to eternal life [v.29]? [Answer this for yourself before reading on!] Why do we need to believe in Jesus? because only Jesus has God the Father’s official “seal of approval” as the genuine provider of the food for eternal life. Compare this metaphor with the one in John 4.14!

Reflect: Perhaps the crowd wanted a continuous supply of free bread, as Moses had apparently secured from God. How much or how often do you pray requests about worldly desires, and how much or how often do your pray requests about spiritual goals, like becoming a better person, following Christ more closely, being more intimate with God, being filled with the Holy Spirit, maturing in your faith, or being effective in ministry? Do you think you should shift the balance?

Day 2 / Memorize: Continue working on your memory verse!

Learn: Prayerfully read John 6.25-31. When Jesus told them they had to believe in him, they demanded a sign [v.30]! They quoted from Psalm 78.24 [v.31], about the gift of manna [a bread-like substance] God gave the people during the exodus [see Exodus 16.4-36, if you are interested]. Why would they ask for a sign, when Jesus had just miraculously fed thousands of them? Some scholars speculate that the crowd in Capernaum was mixed, some who had seen the miraculous feeding and others who had not, and it was the latter who asked for a sign. But it seems likely that those who had seen would have excitedly shared! Scholar D.A. Carson suggests that the miraculous feeding was enough to prompt speculation that Jesus was the promised Greater Moses Prophet [especially since Moses was the leader when manna dropped from the sky; see John 6.14], but that this very speculation in turn suggested to the crowd that they had a right to expect even more spectacular signs than Moses provided, in order to validate Jesus’ identity.

Reflect: Do you sometimes demand a sign from God or Jesus? For example, does your obedience and commitment to God fluctuate with how well God is answering your prayer requests? When you do not get something for which you prayed or when your life takes a turn for the worse, do you find yourself angry with God or doubting God? What could be better about your level of devotion [daily worship and quiet times, church attendance, passion for God, service in ministry, eagerness to witness for God...]?

Day 3 / Memorize: Continue working on your memory verse!

Learn: Prayerfully read John 6.29-35. Even in the case of manna, it was God who provided the blessing, not Moses. But Jesus has more important points to make. For one, manna was perishable and so were the people who ate it, but now God provides the “true bread” from Heaven [v.32] that is eternal food and thus sustains eternal life [v.27]. Second, notice that while manna was only for the Jews, this true bread is for the whole world [v.33]. Third, note that not only does Jesus *provide* the bread of life, he *is* the bread of life [vv.33, 35]! Look again at these “bread” verses [27, 32-33, 35] and then read also vv.48-51, and think about what Jesus is saying about the bread he offers.

Reflect: Does v.34 remind you of the woman at the well [John 4.15]? Do you remember the significance of what Jesus taught that woman [4.14]? Jesus can offer us salvation, which includes the Holy Spirit coming inside of us as a source of life-giving water to regenerate us spiritually to new and eternal life! Shifting metaphors, Jesus is the food, the sustenance we need to live eternally. How much do you depend on Jesus? Do you think you have any merit or value without his sacrifice? Do you think you add anything to the cause of your salvation? What about for changing and growing spiritually, how much do you depend on Jesus and how much do you think you can do it on your own? What do you think or do that shows your dependence on Jesus?

Day 4

Memorize: Continue working on your memory verse!

Learn: Prayerfully read John 6.35-40. In v.35, Jesus says two parallel things: “the one coming to me certainly will not hunger, and the one believing in me certainly will not thirst ever.” First, notice that because these ideas are parallel, coming to Jesus and believing in Jesus are equated here, they both describe the positive response to Jesus we think of as “saving faith.” Second, while most English translations say “the one who comes” and “the one who believes,” the choice of verb types in Greek suggests [as before in this book] that “coming” and “believing” are continual; Jesus is given as life-giving bread only once, but in true faith we continually are coming to him and believing in him. Third, notice the emphasis this translation has: “*certainly will not* hunger” and “*certainly will not* thirst ever.” In this sentence, Jesus uses the combination “οὐ μὴ” [OO MAY] which scholar Dan Wallace describes as the strongest way to negate something in Greek. If you put your faith in Jesus, he *guarantees* you will *never* be lacking spiritually! After Jesus tells them he is the bread of life [v.35], he tells them that they don’t really believe [v.36]. Just as with the religious leaders in Jerusalem [John 5.38], Jesus again is encountering lack of faith in who he really is. The crowd sees his power and his material provision of bread, but not the significance of the miracle; they see his giftedness and his potential as a king in God’s name, but not that he actually is the divine Son of God and the rightful king as the promised Messiah in the line of David.

Reflect: How much do you understand and believe of what you have learned about Jesus so far in this book? Consider these aspects of Jesus’ identity, which John has shared so far, and talk with a spiritual leader about any questions or doubts you have: [1] Jesus is the Son of God come to earth as a man. The Son is fully God and distinct from the Father or the Spirit, but so in unity with them in will and essence that they together are one God, called Yahweh. [2] Jesus, as the Son, is the full revelation of God and the wisest teacher about God. [3] God the Father created the universe through the Son of God. [4] Jesus is the ultimate king in the line of David and the prophetic Son of Man, whom God the Father has chosen to rule eternally with all authority in the universe. [5] Jesus is God the Father’s chosen judge, who can give spiritual life now and who will resurrect all the dead and judge them at the end of time. [6] Jesus is the promised Messiah/Christ from the Old Testament, who will come to fulfill God’s promises to Israel. [7] As the Messiah/Christ, Jesus is the savior who was crucified and then exalted as prophesied, to bring new and eternal spiritual life through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. [8] Jesus is spiritual light that offers life to people; he is the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. [9] Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and brings the blessings of the New Covenant. [10] Jesus can do miracles, heal people of anything, even bring people back to life. [11] Jesus is the bridegroom to the church, sacrificially providing salvation, cleansing, and protection. [12] Jesus is the center for worship, the way to glorify God the Father who sent him.

Do you live like Jesus is your God and king? Or do you live like he is just a kind provider of blessings? In other words, do you live your own way, seeking blessing on what you want to do when you want to do it? Or do you live for Jesus, submitting and sacrificing, to do what he wants, when he wants, even though it might not be attractive to you?

Day 5

Memorize: Continue working on your memory verse! Continue to practice once a week from now on!

Learn: Prayerfully read John 6.22-40. Look at v.37: if God the Father chooses to give someone to Jesus, then that person does come to Jesus, every time; and if a person comes to Jesus, Jesus will preserve that person spiritually, every time [Jesus uses “οὐ μὴ” again, to say, “I *certainly will not* cast out the one coming to me”]. Look at vv.38-39: It is God the Father’s will that every person God has given to Jesus [that is, every person who has come to Jesus by believing in Jesus] will be preserved spiritually by Jesus [that is, will be protected in salvation by Jesus] all the way through the time of resurrection to new life on a new Earth with Jesus. Look at vv.37-40: If God has given someone to Jesus, that person absolutely does come to know and believe in Jesus, and absolutely will have eternal life, being preserved by Jesus through the time of resurrection to new life on a new Earth with Jesus.

Reflect: Reflect on these guarantees. Do they give you comfort? Why or why not? How much of the salvation process depends on the person sharing the gospel? how much on the one seeking truth? how much on God the Father and Jesus? The purpose of the incarnation [the Son of God coming as a man] was to do the will of the Father and that will is to save all whom the Father would give to the Son. What are your thoughts on this being the purpose of the Son of God coming?