



1-28-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

“Vision Check - Hunger Myths”



Context

We are spending these 4 weeks before Lent revisiting our church’s mission and vision statement. Our mission, to know Christ and make Christ known, will never change, but how we go about pursuing that mission will change based on our context, time, and place. This is why a vision is helpful- to specifically share how we will live out our mission. Since our vision is based on context, we will take these coming weeks to explore issues we face within our community.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Think of the time in your life when you were the most hungry you’ve ever been. How did you feel at the time? Was the hunger by choice, or out of your control? Did you find it difficult to concentrate on the responsibilities that were before you?

Discussing the Text – John 6:1-14, 25-40

1. This miracle is one of the few of Jesus’ miracles recorded in all four Gospel accounts. Why do you think this story would be so well known?
2. John’s version of this story is the only one to mention Jesus’ testing Philip in verse 6. Does Philip pass the test? Why or why not?
3. John’s version of this story is also the only one to mention that this event takes place during the Passover festival. Why might John think it’s necessary to mention this fact? Here’s a hint: the Book of John mentions multiple Jewish festivals and feasts when Jesus performs his miracles. What might John be saying about Jesus and Jewish forms of worship?
4. What do you think Jesus was trying to say about himself by feeding the crowds of people?
5. What do you think Jesus means when he says that he is the bread of life in verse 35?

So what?

1. Does it matter if we take care of people’s physical needs before we try to take care of their spiritual needs? Why or why not?
2. If Jesus made it a point to feed these people, what do we learn about God’s desires for the poor, needy, and downtrodden?
3. If Jesus could so effortlessly feed so many people, why didn’t he continue doing it? Does the fact that Jesus did this only once (and maybe one other time, feeding 4,000 people in Mark 8) tell us anything about God’s plan for feeding the hungry?
4. The type of bread brought forth, barley bread, is only described in John’s account. This was a very common type of bread that poor commoners would use. If the people Jesus was feeding were likely poor, how does this influence our understanding of what God calls us to do about hunger?
5. Are we called to care only for the needy in the church, or people from all backgrounds? Read Isaiah 58:6-11 and Acts 2:44-45. How do these passages help answer this question?
6. What can you do to make a difference with hunger in Fort Dodge?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite group members for pray for people who do not have regular access to food in Fort Dodge.