

ENCOUNTER JESUS

Week 12 | Heaven's Life | John 6:22-59

When we begin in chapter 6 there were well over 5,000 men following Jesus, so that doesn't include women and children. So, maybe there was as many as 15,000 followers. By the end of chapter 6 we see there are only 11 or 12 people around Jesus. Jesus asked His disciples, "Will you leave me too?" What drastic thing must have happened between the beginning of the chapter and the end?

The people were challenged with true belief. We know that they were following Jesus to get free food and probably to see what would happen next. What they ended up getting was food for thought.



PRAY (10 min)

Pray together that God would challenge you to go deeper in your personal walk with Him. Commit all things in your life to Him and seek His will in this study.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you reflect on the message from Sunday, and the passage that we've read, discuss the following questions together.

1. Why do people tend to look at God like a celestial Santa Claus? How does that effect the way people believe in God?

JESUS SAID TO THEM, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE; WHOEVER COMES TO ME SHALL NOT HUNGER, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER THIRST. BUT I SAID TO YOU THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ME AND YET DO NOT BELIEVE. ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME, AND WHOEVER COMES TO ME I WILL NEVER CAST OUT."
JOHN 6:35-37

2. When Jesus says that whoever comes to Him and believes in Him will never hunger, what do you think that means? Does it mean that the Christian will never have wants or needs?
3. Read the story below and discuss it.

Many people do say they believe in Jesus, but what do they actually mean? Perhaps they believe Jesus existed; they also may believe His teachings are worth following; they may even believe He was the divine Son of God, sent from heaven to save us from our sins (as the Bible teaches). And yet for far too many people, one thing is still missing, and that is commitment. To put it another way, they have believed in their minds, but they've never acted on it. They've never personally committed themselves to Christ and invited Him to come into their lives to change them and make them part of His family. Suppose you went hiking one day and you came to a footbridge crossing a deep valley. You examined it and it looked sturdy; you also saw other hikers safely crossing it. In your mind, therefore, you had faith in that bridge; you believed it would hold you. But simply believing the bridge would hold you wouldn't get you to the other side! In addition, you'd have to put your trust in it and actually commit yourself to it. Only then would you really believe in that bridge.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

John 6:29

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."



REACH (5 min)

The way we believe should impact all aspects of our existence. Our belief in Jesus should challenge our words, thoughts and actions. Pray and ask God to cause your dependence upon Him to be evident in all areas of your life.