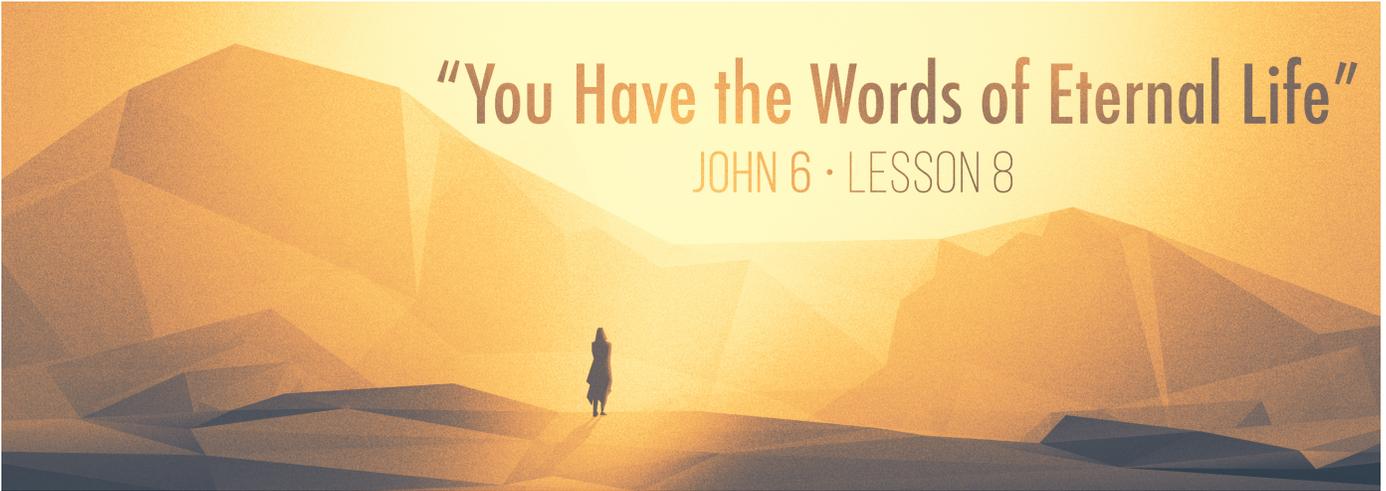


"You Have the Words of Eternal Life"

JOHN 6 · LESSON 8



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 _____ that he was doing on the sick. (John 6:1-2)

As Jesus sits down on a mountain with his disciples and sees a large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, one of the disciples, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (6:5).

He said this to _____ him, for he himself knew what he would do. (6:6)

Philip's response? Two hundred days' worth of wages to buy bread wouldn't be enough for each of them to get a little. Andrew, another disciple, pointed out that there was a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish, "but what are they for so many?" (6:9).

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about _____ thousand in number. (6:10)

And what happened next was absolutely incredible. Taking the loaves, the fish, and giving thanks, Jesus distributed them to those who were seated, "as much as they wanted." In fact, after they were full, twelve baskets of leftovers were gathered up.

When the people saw the _____ that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (6:14-15)

That night, as the disciples crossed the sea in a boat, they were caught in a terrible storm. What did they see? Jesus walking on the sea, and they were terrified. "It is I; do not be _____," Jesus said (6:16-21).

The next day, the crowd found Jesus and anxiously asked him for another sign, even bringing up the fact that their fathers "ate the _____ in the wilderness" (6:22-31). After pointing out that they were seeking him, "not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves" and challenging them not to work "for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life" (6:26-27), Jesus said, "_____ the bread of life" (6:35).

When it became clear that Jesus wasn't simply going to give them more to eat, many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him (6:60-66). When Jesus asked the Twelve if they were also going to leave, Simon Peter had a great response:

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the _____ of eternal life, and we have _____, and have come to know that you are the Holy _____ of God." (6:68-69)

What a confession! The signs had led these men to believe. Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Like other miracles described in his Gospel, the miracle of feeding the 5,000 is described by John as a “sign” (6:14). What sort of sign? What did it prove? To what was it pointing?
- When the people said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” (6:14), what were they talking about? Deuteronomy 18:15-18 might be helpful here...
- What does the second miracle in John 6 (verses 16-21) reveal about the power and character of Jesus?
- The next day, why do you think the people brought up the fact that their forefathers “ate the manna in the wilderness” (6:31)? What does this have to do with what they had said in 6:14?
- Why did Jesus say what he said in 6:26-27? What did he mean by this?
- We learned in Lesson 2 that Jesus will say “I am..” seven different times in John’s Gospel and 6:35 is the first. What did he mean by, “I am the bread of life”? What is he trying to help these people see and understand? John 6:40 might be really helpful here...
- As the Jews began grumbling, they asked a couple of questions in 6:42. Were they right in what they thought?
- In 6:51, 64, and 70-71, what does John help us understand about Jesus?
- In what ways did Simon Peter have a great response to Jesus’ question in 6:67-69?