

110120 Growth Group Study

Abundant Provision

John 6:1-21



Background: As we come to John 6 this week, we are confronted again with our view of God. Jesus goes back to Galilee during Passover, where he finds a great crowd following him. He has compassion on the crowd and feeds them using a small lunch, then collects 12 baskets of leftovers. Jesus seems to be connected to a world of great abundance. Are you connected to this world? Is the God you serve a God of abundance or scarcity? Join us in person for Mornings Together or on our live stream as we explore this well-known text.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 6:1-21

1 After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. 3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." 8 One of his disciples,

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

15 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.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - In our passage this week, Jesus lifts His eyes and becomes aware of the needs of those around Him. How can we become aware ourselves of the needs around us - in our family, community, and beyond? And in what ways can we meet those needs in joyful, abundant, radical ways: spiritually, physically, and emotionally?
 - After everyone had eaten their fill, the disciples picked up an additional 12 (large) baskets of food. How/when has God been overly extravagant and abundant in your life?

- Jesus does not create the bread & fish out of nothing: he used other people to accomplish His work. How does this challenge and/or encourage you?
- Shawn commented that we think our resources don't amount to much, but scarcity is a fallacy in the presence of a God of abundance! Are you controlled by a scarcity mindset or an abundance mindset? What would it look like to allow the Lord to control your thinking?
- Jesus was watching over His disciples and went to help them in their great need. Where do you need to be encouraged that Jesus is on the throne, but He is also present with us? Who else in your life needs to know this truth?