

## 112220 Growth Group Study

### For the Life of the World

#### John 6:41-71



**Background:** We finish Jesus' Bread of Life discourse this week. Jesus goes deeper into what it means to keep coming and keep believing in him. His language is arresting as he talks about ingesting his flesh and blood. The shocking language offends many of his disciples, causing them to turn away. Yet the language he uses speaks to us taking his life into ours so that his life becomes our life, that we may abide with each other and share life together. What an incredible invitation to us - the living God wants to share life with us!

And, of course, this text looks forward to our identifying feast, communion. Although it is not the first Sunday of the month, we will take communion together at the end of the service. For those of you at home, I invite you to prepare elements ahead of time which represent the body and blood of Jesus (the elements do not need to be special). For those of you at our live parking lot service, we will serve pre-packaged elements to you.

#### **Sermon Text (ESV):**

#### **John 6:41-71**

##### *I. The Hostile Opponents (41-51a)*

*41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus*

answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51a I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."

## *II. The Flesh and Blood (51b-59)*

51b "And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

## *III. The Response of His Disciples (60-71)*

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to

*know, that you are the Holy One of God.” 70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.*

### **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
  - Jesus warns his listeners not to grumble. How would you assess your own thoughts & words when it comes to grumbling? How might you take your own grumbling more seriously if you truly believed that it was the first sign of unbelief, rejection, and idolatry?
    - During this Thanksgiving week, even during these unique & challenging times, how can you show gratitude, thanks, & praise?
  - Jesus uses shocking language of flesh & blood, which among other things points forward to the crucifixion. However, this is His bold way of saying that faith in Him is more than head knowledge, it is an intimate relationship.
    - What is your initial reaction to Jesus’s shocking language of eating his flesh and drinking his blood?
    - This week, how can you share in His life more deeply by taking Him in, by letting Him nourish your life with His?
  - Jesus is the only way, but He is also the only thing necessary. What unnecessary things -- traditions, styles, opinions -- are you letting get in the way of your relationship with God or with others? Instead, what would it look like for you to give up your rights so that others may live, and to model a reconciling life?
    - Finally, what are you trying to bring to the Lord in your own strength to earn His favor or fulfill your own pride? All we need to do is consume Jesus!