**BCM Bible Study –April 4 & 5, 2018**

**Sign #4: The Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-15, 25-71)**

Recap: We’re studying the 7 miracles (although we’re calling them signs as John does) in the book of John that all serve to make a point about the person and character of Jesus to both a Jewish and Gentile audience. We’ve already seen Jesus turn water into wine and then heal an official’s son without even seeing him, and the healing at the pool.

**Note: This week excludes Jesus walking on water, we will do this next week.**  **This miracle is also in Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, and Luke 9:12-17**

**Read: John 6:1-15**

What is the significance of the Jewish passover to the Jewish people? (vs 4)

* Leader’s Note: The implications of this will come later.

Why are all of the people there? (v 2)

Why does Jesus test Philip even though he knows the answer? (v6)

* Is God testing you right now and what is he testing you on?
* Is it reassuring or discouraging that no matter what that test is that he knows the answer?

What's the significance in Jesus giving thanks before the miracle is done? (v 11)

* God can do so much with so little so always be thankful for what he has blessed you with.
* Are there times when you question if God will provide and it was hard to be thankful?
* Why should we also adopt this posture of thankfulness?

**Read Deuteronomy 18:15**: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers- it is to him you shall listen. “

How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy from Moses?

* At the same time, in what way are they limiting what Jesus can do for them?

**Read John 6:25-40**

Lets go read the passage about God providing Manna to the people in the desert that Jesus alludes to in verse 31.

**Read Exodus 16:1-8**

How do these passages in John and Exodus relate?

How is Jesus offering so much more than God’s provision in the desert through Moses?

* In light of the connection between Jesus and Moses in this story, why is it significant that this miracle takes place at the Passover? In what way does Jesus fulfill and transcend the Egyptian Passover?
* What does Jesus mean when he talks about food that spoils? (v27)
	+ Often we seek life and joy in things that end up disappointing us. In what ways have you found this to be true in your experience?
	+ How does him being the bread of life contrast the food that spoils? (v 35)
		- In what areas has Jesus given you life where other things have failed?
* What are the works that you try to do instead of believing in the one he has sent? (v 29)

**Read John 6:41-59**

What are the people grumbling about? (v41)

What does it matter if they knew of his beginnings? (v42)

What is Jesus alluding to in verse 53? (communion)

What does it mean to abide in Christ and for him to abide in you? (v.56)

* What does that look like?
* How does the practice of the Lord’s Supper facilitate this?

**Read John 6:60-71**

“This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” (v 65)

* What does this mean?

Why did so many people leave and turn their backs on Jesus? (v 66)

* How did Peter model not understanding but still trusting?
* What are some ways that you practice this?

**Conclusion**

Jesus keeps talking about how he is so much more than bread, yet people are hung up on the bread because it provides what we need in this world.

* What things in this world are you caught up on instead of having an eternal perspective?
	+ Financial Security? Relationship success? Academic prowess?

What are some things we can do when have a hard time with understanding God’s word?

* Talk about functional steps to do when we are going through this

Jesus is so much more than a prophet, he is the bread of life - he is our savior.

* Do you find yourself thinking of him as just another prophet?
* How can we remind ourselves of all that Jesus is?