

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week's passage continues revealing who Jesus is. It also highlights what people's attitudes to Him are. Both the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on the sea are included in the other 3 Gospels. It may be helpful for the group to read both this passage and the other accounts before you meet. They are found in Matt 14v13-33, Mark 6v30-52, Luke 9v10-17.

God bless,

Roger (This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Roger Newberry, who leads one of the Life Groups at our Wimbledon venue)

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

### **John 6:1-21**

**This Week's BIG IDEA:** God provides and cares for us.

**Please read John 6:1-21**

1. v1, why might John mention the alternative name for the Sea of Galilee?  
*[Leaders note: was he trying to reach a wider audience, not only Jewish readers?]*
2. v2, what motivated the great crowd that followed Him?  
*[Leaders note: People are attracted to what God is doing because of need (i.e. healing). Perhaps also because they sought freedom from occupiers (see later v15) and/or "In every man there is a heart shaped vacuum that only God can fill", a quote from Pascal.]*
3. v5-6, in these verses we're told that Jesus tests Philip. Why would Jesus do this?  
*[Leaders note: How do we view challenges? Will you pray and tell Jesus you are willing to be tested? I know there is in me the desire to take it easy. A fine Christian speaker once said, "We are looking for our comfort, but God is looking for our completion". See James1v2.]*
4. v7-9, How did Philip, and then Andrew, do in the test? How does this moment expose what they thinking?  
*[Leaders note: Here is the challenge to grow in seeing things from God's point of view and with His amazing resources. See also Isaiah 55v8-9.]*
5. v10-11, Jesus gave thanks to Father God. What does this show about His relationship with Father? How can we bring thankfulness into our prayers?
6. v12-13, what does this miracle show us about what Jesus and Father God are like?  
*[Leaders note: what incredible generosity!]*
7. What other examples can you think of about God's generous nature? What do you recall about how God has shown abundance to you?
8. v14-15, what do these verses show us about who people thought Jesus was?  
*[Leaders note: People believed that God would send a Saviour, but they saw Him as someone to save them from worldly subjection, rather from the curse of sin and resulting separation from God. See also John2v24.]*
9. Reread v16-21. What do you imagine it was for the disciples in the boat? Did Jesus know what they were facing? What made them frightened at the sight of Jesus? Are there things about Jesus that maybe you find difficult or hard to accept? Have you invited Jesus into your boat?
10. As we finish this study, take time to pray about the lessons we've learned from these two signs.
  - a. From the feeding of the 5,000. Are we willing to allow Jesus to speak into our lives regarding trusting Him? As a response, invite everyone to pray to Him and give Him permission to help them grow in faith.
  - b. Jesus sent them into the storm. Are we willing to accept that God is King over our lives, including difficulties? That He, out of love for our good, may actually send difficult things (like the adverse wind). As a response, invite everyone to ask Him to be Lord of a difficult situation. As they are able, to thank Him that He wants to use it in their lives to bring good.