

Main Point: It is only when we consume Jesus for spiritual nourishment that we gain eternal life.

Jesus' Followers

Leadership does not necessarily equal followers. Jesus impacted a group of 12 men; 3 were His righthand men (Peter, James, and John). On the night He was arrested, He had no one. They all abandoned Him. Christ's followers literally shaped the ancient world. **His style of leadership was important.** A style that differs from the leadership culture in America today. Jesus was a servant leader. His style of leading was service. He served others around Him.

John 5 – Startling Claims of Jesus

Jesus did not make it easy to follow Him. He made some pretty startling claims in **John 5...**

- **"I am equal with God" vv.19-20.** Jesus is claiming a unique relationship with God.
- **"I am the giver of life" vv.21, 26.** Jesus claims the same power God has over the dead.
- **"I am the final Judge" vv.22-23.** The world will be judged by One who was also judged.
- **"I determine man's destiny" v.24.** Jesus is the key.
- **"I will raise the dead" vv.25-29.** What a bold statement!
- **"I am always doing the will of God" v.30.** He was always doing exactly what the Father willed.

John 6 – Another Radical Claim

In John 6 Jesus wants us to understand that just as there is a physical hunger that only physical food can satisfy, there is a spiritual hunger that only spiritual food can nourish. He contrasts physical food that satisfies for a moment and spiritual food that is eternal. **It is in this context that Jesus makes the following statement: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life..." (v.54)**

Q1: Why am I searching? Many search for "The Rabbit's Foot Jesus" or a "Scratch-off Christ."

Q2: Who answers the big questions in life for me? Many are content ignoring the emptiness, continually searching.

Q3: Have I consumed Christ and has He consumed me? This is the message of John 6.

Family Night Big Idea

Jesus died on the cross to give us eternal life in heaven and life more abundant here and now. His radical sacrifice demands a radical response. Your children need to understand the difference between simple "belief" and "authentic faith" that follows Jesus.

Discussion Starter – Read John 6:41-56

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Why did the Pharisees grumble against Jesus?" Ask, "To what did Jesus compare Himself in the OT?" Ask, "How will people know that we follow Jesus?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "What is the difference between simple belief and authentic faith?" Ask, "Obviously we cannot eat the flesh of Jesus, so what point was He trying to make in v.56?" Ask, "What is following Jesus?"

Prayer

"Father, Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus to pay for our sin on the cross. We want to follow Him. Amen.

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church this Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Gravity: No Gravity this Sunday

Today's Songs

Lion and the Lamb.....Big daddy Weave

Same God.....Elevation Worship

Unstoppable God.....Elevation worship

GCC Father/Daughter Valentine Dance

Mark your calendar for February 10th. Sign up in the Lobby or online, January 15 through February 5. Location is at the Belle House again this year. Cost is \$30 per couple. All ages encouraged to attend!

PlusONE

Adding something to your worship is the best way to grow in your faithwalk. Check out Family Night, Personal Study or a Small Group. We would love to get you started in 2023!

Kenya Mission Trip

If you are curious about what a mission trip to Kenya involves, you can find out more information at a meeting next Sunday, February 5th at 10:30 after the first service.

Move In Work Day

We need some men to help us move into the new KidsJAM wing on February 18th. Let Pastor Mike or Tyler know if you can be there.