

# John 6:60-71

CG Discussion Guide// Week of Feb. 26, 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: If time and life situation weren't a factor, would you be a shower or bath person?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Immanuel Church, Birmingham, AL (Pastor: Austin Baker)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did many of Jesus' disciples find His teaching (John 6:52-59) harsh/difficult/demanding/offensive? Why would they interpret His teaching in this way?
- How does the life-giving Spirit help to understand the words of Jesus Christ? Why isn't the flesh of no help?
  - What does trying to interpret Jesus' words "according to the flesh" look like? How about interpreting "according to the Spirit"?
  - How are we tempted daily to try living spiritually "according to the flesh"?
  - How do we live "in the Spirit"? How ought Jesus' words of "spirit and life" guide and shape your day-to-day as a believer?
- What do you make of Jesus' continued appeal to the Father's work in salvation in connection with faith in Jesus and living according to Jesus?
  - How would that inform how you pray for people? Share the Gospel to people? How we respond when people leave the faith?
- Jesus' teaching is indeed difficult, harsh, and offensive to many ears. How do you respond to His teaching, and why?
  - Are there points in your walk with Him when you found His teaching particularly harsh? What was it, and how did you resolve it with Him?
- What do you make of Jesus' revelation that there are those who have confessed a confession of faith AND remain "devils"?
  - How do we know that "we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls"? (Heb. 10:39)
  - *For CG Leaders to share to CG if desired: Scott Hubbard, Pastor from All Souls Church-*

*Your faith may feel small, and your hold on Christ shaky. Even still, it is possible for you to feel down deep that he will never cast you out (John 6:37). It is possible for you to cry "Abba!" with the implicit trust of God's children (Romans 8:15-16). It is possible for you to "rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8). It is possible for you to have "confidence for the day of judgment" (1 John 4:17) – indeed, to "know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).*

*God's desire for his people's assurance, even for the most fragile of them, burns brightly through the Scriptures. He has knit assurance into his very name, whether old covenant (Exodus 34:6-7) or new (Matthew 1:21). He has spoken assurance in promise upon promise from a mouth that "never lies" (Titus 1:2). And as he once wrote assurance with a rainbow (Genesis 9:13-17), and flashed assurance through the stars (Genesis 15:5-6), so now he has sealed assurance with the greatest sign of all: the body and blood of his dear Son. Week by week, we eat the bread and drink the cup of his steadfast love in Christ (Matthew 26:26-29).*

*If God's new covenant is sure (and it is), if his promises are true (and they are), and if his character cannot change (and it can't), then full assurance is possible for everyone in Christ, no matter how strong our present fears.*

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### **Abide Time: John 6:60-71**

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?
- Read the passage and let God speak to you in your reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
  - What does the text say is true about God and his character?
  - What does it say about the world around you?
- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?
- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?
- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?
- How is God inviting you to live differently?
- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

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## WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

*The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.*

*That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.*

*Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.*

### **PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:**

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

### **PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:**

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

### **PRAY FOR OUR CITY:**

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community– (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

### **PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:**

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- March 1: Redeemer Men
- March 10-19: Brazil Trip
- March 24-25: Gospel Culture Conference with Drew Hunter
- March 26: Child + Family Dedication and Redeemer-in-10
- April 1: Membership Class
- April 2: Palm Sunday

**Reminder:** All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.