

**Union United Methodist Church**  
 Spring FOCUS Bible School, 2023  
 FOCUS: Followers of Christ Understanding Scripture  
 Study: Gospel of John

**Week 4: March 22, 2023**

**Signs Confirming Jesus Is the Messiah**

This Week's Study: **John 6 & 7**

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**1. Overview of the Gospel of John**

○ **The Purpose of the Gospel of John**

To appreciate John's Gospel, it helps to start from the purpose of the book as stated by the author:

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.**" John 20:30-31 NRSV

The table below gives a breakdown of the chapters of John, with themes that we shall be exploring in this study. We shall cover one theme per week.

Week	From	To	Theme
1	1	1	Who Jesus Is; First Disciples Sign 1: Wedding at Cana;
2	2	3	Nicodemus & New Birth; Jesus & John the Baptist Sign 2: Royal Official's Son; Samaritan Woman at the well
3	4	5	Sign 3: Healing at Bethesda on Sabbath day <b>Sign 4: Jesus Feeds 5,000; Bread of Life</b>
<b>w</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Sign 5: Jesus walks on water; water &amp; light teachings, Jesus at feast of tabernacles; Adulterous woman</b>
5	9	11	Sign 6: Healing of man born blind/ Anointing; Triumphal Entry
6	12	13	Last Supper
7	14	14	Jesus Teaches – good Shepherd, on heaven, keep his words, etc.
8	15	15	Jacob's Family; Reconciliation with Esau
9	16	17	Teaching discourse and prayer
10	18	19	Jesus is arrested, tried, mocked, crucified, buried
11	20	20	Jesus' resurrection; appears to witnesses.
12	21	21	Second ending of gospel; Jesus appears in Galilee

## 2. John 6 & 7 Overview

- **Sign 4: Jesus Feeds 5,000 (John 6:1-15); Bread of Life (John 6:25-59)**
  - Old Testament Comparative Text  
Numbers 11 - Provision of mana and meat for Israel in the wilderness.
  - The draw of the signs

1After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. **2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.**"

John 6:1-2 NRSV.

### Recall: Jesus must be lifted up for people to believe in him

- Jesus told Nicodemus, "just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**" 3:14-15 NRSV

Jesus was referring to Moses lifting up a bronze snake which any who looked on did not die after being bitten by a snake during a time of judgement among the Israelites (Numbers 21:9)

- Jesus said: "**And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.**" John 12:32 NRSV

People are drawn to Christ when they see the miracles and great things the Lord is doing in our lives. We must always bear witness and give testimony to God's good works and grace in our lives.

- **Steps to the Miracle**
  - **Jesus Tests Faith of Disciples**  
"3Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, **Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"** 6He said **this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.** 7Philip

answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." 8One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" 6:3-9 NRSV

- Jesus knew what he was going to do already!  
When the Lord tests and challenges our faith, the Lord already knows the answers and the path to victory.
- Jesus' question to Philip was a test (v6)
- Philip's answer indicates a lack of faith
- Andrew's answer betrays a lack of understanding of the power of a small seed.

Compare Philip's answer to Moses' reaction when God said he was going to give the Israelites meat in the wilderness for a whole month:

"And Moses said, "The people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.' 22Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?"

23And the Lord said to Moses, "Has the Lord's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not." Numbers 11:21-23 NKJV

- **Jesus demonstrated the working of the Holy Spirit's Gifts**

Jesus had the Spirit of God working in him.

"Jesus knew" indicates that he had foreknowledge.

This is what is called by Paul the spiritual gift of "word of knowledge" or "utterance of knowledge" in 1 Corinthians 12:

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit ... 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,** 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just **as the Spirit chooses.**”

1 Corinthians 12:5, 7-11 NRSV

As we walk closely with the Lord and depend on the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit will operate in our lives to bless others, as the Spirit chooses.

- **Spiritual Knowledge and Wisdom Manifested**

“Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.” 6:10-11 NRSV.

- Jesus gave specific instructions on actions to take. He acted with wisdom as one with pre-determined knowledge. He clearly knew what he was doing!
- Note that he gave thanks before he acted.  
What was he giving thanks for

- **Gather Fragments, No Waste**

“When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “**Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.**” 13So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.” 6:12-13 NRSV

Here is an important lesson for us about the Divine economy:  
In the midst of abundant provision, we should let nothing go to waste.

○ **Effects of the Sign**

“14When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say,  
“This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

15When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by  
force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.”

6:14-15 NRSV

Some Key Points:

- The people believed that Jesus is the Messiah  
“This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”
- The people misunderstood the purpose of the sign.  
“they were about to come and take him by force to make him king.”
- Jesus, mindful of his purpose and calling, did not yield to them/  
“he withdrew again to the mountain by himself”

○ **Sign 5: Jesus Walks on Water - John 3:46-54**

While Jesus withdrew to be by himself on the mountain but his disciples got  
into a boat and went to Capernaum.

16When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17got into a boat,  
and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not  
yet come to them. 18The sea became rough because a strong wind was  
blowing. 19When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus  
walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. 20But  
he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” 21Then they wanted to take him into

the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going." 6:16-21 NRSV

Matthew 14 gives a lot more detail on this story but the essentials are all in this summarized story.

- **Jesus, the Bread of Life, Bread from Heaven (John 6:25-59)**

- **Jesus pursued for the wrong reasons**

23Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus." NIV

The people were clearly impressed by the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 and went in pursuit of Jesus for more.

25When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

26Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, **you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.** 27**Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.** For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." NIV

- **Lessons Jesus wanted to teach from feeding of 5,000**

- **"I am the bread of life" 6:48 NIV**

- 32Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.33**For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**" 6:32-33 NIV.

- **"I am the living bread"**

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. NIV

Jesus' sacrifice of himself for the world

- **In the body and blood of Christ is eternal life**

53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.** 54 **Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.** 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them

- Comparison with the mana

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. **Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.**"

- **Reactions to Jesus' Teaching**

- Those in pursuit for more miracles

66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

- The Twelve Disciples

67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

- **Importance of Jesus' Words**

"63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life." 5:1-4 NKJV

### ○ **John 7 Key Highlights**

This week, chapter 7 shall be for home study and I'll elaborate on it next week.

Here are some themes to think about during personal study this week.

- Disrespect and Unbelief of Jesus' Brothers - John 7:1-9
- Importance of Timing in all Jesus said and did - 7:6-9; 7:25-36
- Living Water and the Holy Spirit" 7"37-39
- Jesus' Identity and his rejection by those in authority: 7:40-52

### 3. Daily Study Schedule & Questions

#### ○ **Day 1: Sign 4: Jesus Feeds 5,000 (John 6:1-15);**

As you read and study the verses, here are some suggestions of themes to reflect on:

- The draw of people to Jesus by the signs he performed
- Jesus' test of his disciples' faith before the feeding of the 5,000.  
Compare this to how Moses' faith was tested when Israel was fed with manna and meat in the desert - Numbers 11
- How the Holy Spirit's gifts worked in Jesus - and in us (1 Corinthians 12:5-11)
- Abundance and waste - lessons from the feeding of the 5,000
- People's reactions to the feeding of the 5,000 and how Jesus responded.

#### ○ **Day 2: Sign 5: Jesus Walks on Water - John 3:46-54**

As you read and study the verses, here are some suggestions of themes to reflect on:

- The reactions of the disciples on seeing Jesus walking on the water
- What Jesus wanted the disciples to do in the face of a scary miraculous event
- Compare this story with that in Matthew 14. What strikes you as significant?



○ **Day 3: Jesus, the Bread of Life, Bread from Heaven (John 6:25-59)**

As you read and study the verses, here are some suggestions of themes to reflect on:

- Read carefully and meditate on John 6:25-59
- What significant lessons did Jesus want the people to get from the feeding of the 5,000?
- How does the manna compare with this miracle of feeding 5,000
- What is the significance of Jesus' body and blood?
- What does this say about regularly taking communion?
- What does "I am the bread of life" mean to you personally?

○ **Day 4 & 5: John 7 Home Study**

As you read and study the verses, here are some suggestions of themes to reflect on:

- Disrespect and Unbelief of Jesus' Brothers - John 7:1-9
- Importance of Timing in all Jesus said and did - 7:6-9; 7:25-36
- Living Water and the Holy Spirit" 7"37-39
- Jesus' Identity and his rejection by those in authority: 7:40-52