

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of July 3, 2016

John 6:28-36

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so

that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave 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 that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe."

Common English Bible (CEB)

²⁸ *They asked, "What must we do in order to accomplish what God requires?"*

²⁹ *Jesus replied, "This is what God requires, that you believe in him whom God sent."*

³⁰ *They asked, "What miraculous sign will you do, that we can see and believe you? What will you do?"* ³¹ *Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat."*

³² *Jesus told them, "I assure you, it wasn't Moses who gave the bread from heaven to you, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

³⁴ *They said, "Sir, give us this bread all the time!"*

³⁵ *Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I told you that you have seen me and still don't believe."*

Connection Questions:

1. The gospel of John uses Mark, Matthew, and Luke to form a systematic theology. How does this make the gospel of John different from the other gospels?
2. What do you think is the purpose beyond John's gospel?
3. The "I am" sayings in John's gospel are included to assist the listener in knowing that God exists. Can you prove the existence of God? Why or why not?
4. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." How does this imagery help us better understand the nature of God?
5. Why is the writer of John trying to connect the Passover meal with Jesus' life?

6. Discuss your understanding of why the Passover meal is celebrated. Why did God send Jesus to the world? Is there any similarity to these two events?

7. One of the visible symbols in baptism is the image of water. How does this symbol remind us of God? How does the image of bread connect us to God?

8. If you can't prove the existence of God, why does the writer of John continue all through his writings to try to convince the reader of God's existence? Is it important to wrestle with the existence of God? Why or why not?

9. When the Lord's Supper is instituted, we partake of bread and grape juice in the United Methodist Church. What do these symbols mean? Do you think there is a connection to this sacrament and the celebration of the Passover meal? Discuss.

10. Does the image of bread help you better understand your connection to God? If so, explain how.