

*“Breakthrough!” in 2022*

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 08.28.2022

LET JESUS IN YOUR BOAT – JOHN 6:16-47

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

As we pick up our story, Jesus has just miraculously fed 20,000 people with a few loaves of bread and a couple fish. After that happened, the people all wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him their king, but He slipped away. Why did Jesus slip away? Because He knew what kind of king they were looking for and He had no interest in being that kind of king. They weren’t interested in serving Him or surrendering to Him. They wanted Him to be king on their terms. They wanted Him to meet their needs and satisfy their cravings. As we move further into John 6, we will recognize that in order to believe in Jesus we need more than amazing miracles done before our eyes. Rather, we need a miracle done inside of us to enable us to see who Jesus truly is. We need something that will last longer than bread from heaven. Namely, we need to know Jesus, the Bread of life, personally. We need to possess an abiding trust in Him, a trust that can endure the trials of this life and lead us into the resurrection life to come. This, according to Jesus, is the work of the triune God, not something we can produce in and of ourselves. Let’s get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from the message this last weekend?
2. Have you ever owned anything with a “lifetime guarantee”? Why did you trust this guarantee?
3. What sorts of qualities come to mind when you think of something that can last a lifetime?

People want things to last. It’s only natural. Usually, people trust certain products to last because of the brand quality of the manufacturer—or perhaps the trustworthiness of the salesman who recommended the product. The same goes for our faith in Jesus. We should count on our personal faith in Jesus to last not only because of the object of our faith—Jesus—but also because of the quality of this personal faith. We will see in this lesson that saving faith has both its origin and permanence in God’s ability to draw and keep His people.

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

The Old Testament presents Yahweh as the God who rules over the seas and makes His paths across them. Psalm 89:9 says, “You rule the raging sea; when its waves surge, you still them.” Even more relevant to our passage, Job 9:8 states, “He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.” People throughout the Old Testament feared both the presence of God and the treacherous seas. The disciples here express fear of the Lord and of the seas that demonstrate His power. By walking on water, Jesus establishes that He is this same God who created the universe and yet even in His incarnation, He reigns over the sea.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:16-21

1. What is the significance of Jesus using the phrase “It is I” (or “I am”) in verse 20?

By including Jesus’ words to the disciples, John suggests that we are correct to view Him as identical with the God of the Old Testament. The use of the Greek phrase *ego eimi* (translated “I am”) in this passage probably alludes to the way God describes Himself as the “I AM” in the Old Testament (see Ex. 3:14; Isa. 41:4; 43:10-11; 48:12). The phrase *ego eimi* appears in the aforementioned verses as they are found in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Bible of the apostles and early church. Jesus uses the “I am” phrase several times in John. Thus, both this passage and others in John’s Gospel are highly charged in their teaching about Jesus’ deity.

2. Why is it important to be familiar with what the Old Testament says about God in order to grasp who Jesus is?

## **“Breakthrough!” in 2022**

3. How would you distinguish how we should see Jesus’ miracles from how the world sees Jesus’ miracles?

**In the following passage, we see the true state of people’s hearts and their reason for being interested in Jesus’ miracles—such as with the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus directs the people beyond the miracle that produces food that perishes to the greater miracle that results in eternal life, namely the miracle that takes place in a human heart whenever a sinner comes to trust in Jesus for salvation.**

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:22-29**

1. What do the crowd’s efforts to see Jesus say about their sincerity? Why is a willingness to seek after Jesus not necessarily mean that you are His disciple (i.e. a Christian)?
2. In verse 26, what does Jesus say is the reason for the crowd’s interest in Him? How are they missing the point?

John continues to distinguish between Jesus’ disciples and the crowd at large. Jesus in the following verses exposes the crowd’s true interest in Him. Jesus acknowledges that the point of the miracles is not merely to meet physical needs, such as food, but more importantly to point to who He is as the Son of Man sent by God the Father.

3. What do you think of Jesus’ response to the crowd’s question in verse 28? What does Jesus say in verse 29?
4. In view of this passage, is saving faith in Jesus something we produce for ourselves or is it something that God works inside of us?

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:30-47**

1. What is the crowd’s response to Jesus’ teaching about the “works of God”?
2. Why do you think Jesus refrains from performing another sign?

Notice that in the crowd’s response there is still the desire for a miraculous sign that brings physical benefits to them. This reinforces Jesus’ point that they need a miracle done in them (v. 29) rather than outside of them.

3. According to Jesus, to what or whom does the temporal bread from heaven point (see vv. 32-33, 35)? How does he contrast the temporal bread with the “Bread of life”?
4. What assurances of eternal life does Jesus give in verses 37-40?
5. How does Jesus’ teaching in this passage encourage us to trust God for our salvation from start to finish, both the origins of our saving faith in Jesus and its ability to endure to the end?

Jesus addresses the crowd’s unbelief by telling them forthrightly that they do not believe in Him despite seeing Him firsthand (v. 36). Unless the Father has given people to the Son and drawn them to Him, they will not come to Jesus and believe in Him. We need more than miracles of manna but the miracle of saving faith, which is a gift from God in itself (Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:29).

6. Tell how you would explain to a friend what Christ meant when He called Himself the living bread.
7. Read John 6:44 and explain what Jesus meant when He said “No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him?”

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**The crowds grumbled over the fact that Jesus kept saying He had ‘come down from heaven.’ They thought they knew Him. They knew where He came from. They knew His parents, or so they thought. In response, Jesus pointed to the fact that the only way anyone comes to God is if they are drawn by the Father. (v. 44) God draws**

## ***“Breakthrough!” in 2022***

us to Himself with cords of love. Something else that He uses to draw people to Himself is the word of truth. Jesus quoted Isaiah 54:13 to prove this point. ‘With loving-kindness have I drawn thee.’ {Jeremiah. 31:3}

1. Why is someone’s lack of faith in Jesus never an issue of needing to see more signs and miracles (see Luke 16:31)?
2. How does the mutual work of the Father and the Son in salvation compel us to trust in God rather than in ourselves for eternal life?
3. Why is it important to credit God with both the initiation of our faith in Jesus and for its ability to last until the end?
4. Why is it important that we never place our trust in ourselves or our own ability to produce enduring faith?

PRAYER - Thank God the Father for revealing Himself to us in His Son, Jesus. Credit Him with giving us eyes to see and ears to hear the gospel. Ask God to help the group members to trust Jesus continually for their salvation and to see Him as the only Bread that can truly satisfy us forever.

*“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”*

*{Isaiah 26:3 NLT}*