

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 6:60-71

Ice Breaker: What is an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

Ice Breaker: What is one of your favorite worship songs that consistently strengthens your faith?

DISCUSSION 1: Hard Sayings

1. Read John 6:60-71. What are observations you have about the text?
2. In John 6:60, we see that many of Jesus' disciples found Jesus teaching hard to accept. What did Jesus say difficult for them to listen to in the previous verses? Why do you think they reacted in this way? Why is the gospel offensive? What does their grumbling say about their attitude towards Jesus?
3. What is Jesus explanation for why the disciples do not accept his teaching? What are the distinctions between the Spirit and the flesh? (see "For Further Study" for more passages)
4. What are the implications of Jesus' explanation for those in our lives who also reject Jesus teaching?
5. What would you consider the difficult teachings of Jesus today that cause people to grumble and reject Him? Considering Jesus teaching, what can we do as believers to help people when confronted by these difficult teachings in the Scriptures?

DISCUSSION 2: Turning Back

1. The crowd that a few days ago wanted to make Jesus king now abandon him. Does this mean Jesus' ministry is a failure? Why or why not? What are the signs that a disciple of Jesus may not be genuine? What are the characteristics of a true disciple?
2. Is there a time in your life when you felt like you were close to leaving Jesus? What were the factors that led you to consider leaving Jesus? What were the factors that kept you following Jesus?
3. What are ways our church or this small group can help one another persevere with Jesus to the end?

DISCUSSION 3: The Words of Eternal Life

1. In vs 67, Jesus turns to his closest friends "The Twelve" and asks them, "do you want to go away as well?" How do the disciples respond? What specifically do they believe about Jesus?
2. What are some things in the world that promise eternal life but fall short? Why can we trust Jesus above all other promises?
3. How does Jesus respond to Peter's declaration of faith? How does Jesus' response reinforce his earlier teaching on the reason anyone comes to Him? How does God's sovereignty over our salvation give us confidence we will persevere to the end?
4. Why does Jesus keep Judas around if he knows that he will betray him? What does this teach about the ultimate purpose of Jesus' ministry?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read John 6:67-69. What does Peter say is unique about Jesus? Why are Jesus words better than all other words? What does Jesus promise that no one else can promise?
2. What are things that tempt us to disobey Jesus words? What should we do when we feel like we don't want to obey Jesus?
3. Pray as a family that God would give each of you a heart to believe and

APPLICATION

- **Group:** Some of the most faith-shaking times in life are seeing those close to us walk away from the Lord. As a group, pray for some of the people in our lives who have rejected Jesus and are no longer walking with him. Ask the Lord to open the eyes of their heart so that they may see Jesus as the only one with the words of eternal life. Additionally, pray that the Lord would protect the group from the lies of the devil and that this group would be a place where our faith is strengthened.
- **Individual:** Jesus tells us in our passage that the Spirit alone gives life and that our flesh is no help at all. Take some time to look at the works of the flesh and the work of the Spirit in your life (Gal. 5:16-25). Where do you see the flesh influencing your choices rather than walking by the Spirit? Where do you go to find life? What are some ways you can cooperate with the Spirit to strengthen your faith? What are the most common stumbling blocks of faith in your life? Share your responses with a trusted friend who can help you fight the battle of faith together.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Offense of the Gospel:** I Cor. 1:18, 1 Peter 2:7-8, Gal. 5:11, John 14:6, Acts 4:12
- **Spirit & Flesh:** John 3:5-7, Romans 8:1-11, 1 Cor. 2:10-16, Gal. 5:16-25, 2 Timothy 1:7
- **Chosen by God:** John 6:44, Eph. 1:3-11, Phil. 1:6, Rom. 8:29-30, I Thess. 1:4-5, I Peter 2:4-10, 2 Peter 1:10-11
- **Judas Iscariot:** John 12:3-8, Matthew 26:14-16, John 13:2; 26-29, Acts 1:16-20