



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week 4

As we have studied the book of John this year, we've seen Jesus performing many miracles. Some miracles are described in detail while others are simply alluded to. John also states that the reason for these miracles is that we might believe in Jesus Christ. In this week's verses from chapter 6, we notice that the disciples seem to be getting used to the miracles. It's almost as if they don't notice them and they certainly don't remember them for long. Forgotten miracles can lead to grumbling. If we find ourselves asking why Jesus hasn't shown up in our lives, we might be missing or forgetting some of the things He has done. As you walk through the study guide this week, call to mind—and maybe even jot down—the miracles you have experienced.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God, each one of your children has experienced some kind of fatigue and frustration in recent years.  
You have kept working in our world, but I have grown tired and numb.  
Give me eyes to see and believe because of your everyday miracles.  
I believe Jesus is the Son of God.  
I will follow him.  
Where else would I go?  
Amen.*

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: JOHN 6.60-65

*On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"*

*<sup>61</sup>Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup>The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>Yet there are some of you who do not believe."*

For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."

- Jesus had just described the act and sacrament of communion, the Last Supper. We have the advantage of having experienced taking bread and juice *in remembrance* of Jesus, but the disciples had not yet gathered around the table and heard these words. Is it understandable that they would be offended by Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood? Jesus is putting his earthly body in heavenly perspective. Jesus' disciples require the spiritual food of taking Jesus into ourselves.
- *Jesus, you are the food I need for life in the Spirit. Hold me through the challenges of your teachings that I may believe.*

## **TUESDAY: JOHN 6.66-69**

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

<sup>67</sup> "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

- Perhaps it should not surprise us that many of Jesus' disciples turned back after they heard him describe that his body would be given up for them. In the hours following undeniable miracles, witnesses to those miracles chose the perceived safety of a known but small life. Are you ever tempted to stick with the flow of the world's status quo? When have you made the bold choice of sticking with Jesus even when doing so means going against the grain?
- *God, today I choose to stick with Jesus. To whom shall I go? Jesus is the Holy One of God. May I continue to choose him every day.*

## **WEDNESDAY: COLOSSIANS 2.11-12**

*In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

- The idea of *going all-in with Jesus* was given the sign of baptism. This sign was connected with the previous sign of circumcision which required a commitment by Jewish males. For followers of Jesus, the whole flesh is put off and buried in the waters of baptism allowing us to raise up with Jesus into new life.
- *Jesus, mark my heart and lead me to (or remind me of) the waters of my baptism. I am raised up and made new in you!*

## **THURSDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 11.23-26**

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

- Desperation and hope lead us to continually remember the meal in the upper room, and the death and resurrection of Jesus...until he returns. We are marking time in communion. *Come, Lord Jesus—in this bread and wine, into my life, and into this broken world.*

- *Jesus, I repent of covenants taken too lightly in my life. The new covenant in your blood allows bread and juice to keep me close to you until your return.*

#### **FRIDAY: JOHN 6.12-24-26**

*Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.<sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.<sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

- Once you've given your life to Jesus, you are all-in. You've gone under the water, you've received his presence. Just as a kernel of wheat is *life* given up completely so that *more life* might be produced, our lives given to the work and mission of Jesus are meant to produce a Kingdom harvest. In what ways is your commitment to Christ producing fruit?
- *Jesus, my life is in you. May I give my life to serve you today.*

#### **SATURDAY: EXODUS 16.2-4**

*In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.<sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."*

*<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you.*

- Grumbling after major miracles was not a new phenomenon with Jesus' disciples. We often find ourselves grumbling soon after God has shown up in a powerful way. Why do we forget so quickly? Have you ever become numb to the daily blessings of God? If a blessing shows up today, how will you mark it and remember it tomorrow and in years to come?
- *Jesus, show up in the wilderness of my thoughts and day-to-day encounters. Thank you for your provision and extraordinary miracles. I look up for the bread you rain down.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Pastor Jacob said,

*“...Sometimes we like our boiled down talking points and easy religious outlooks and narrow news channels rather than a harder teaching that requires a lot from us. Not to play into a political battle, but to play into Jesus' grace-filled battle against evil and death. That can feel tiring.”*

What topics or current issues have been boiled down to over-simplistic answers?

Where does Jesus seem to be leading you in response? How do you know?