



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 4:30-42 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#)

below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Knowing a crowd was coming soon, why do you think Jesus did not make some food out of thin air to eat?

Jesus had committed himself to not using His divine powers to meet His own personal needs or alleviate His suffering; instead, He chose to live, suffer, and die fully human as we do. In Matthew 4:3-4, we read, “The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

2. What is the spiritual food that Jesus ate? Can or should His followers eat this same food?

Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.” We can and should commit ourselves to doing the will of the Father who called us to follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and to completing His purposes for our lives as the Holy Spirit leads us according to the Bible.

3. What are two fields ripe for harvesting that the disciples might have seen?

They might have seen a field of wheat or barley ready to be harvested. Indeed, they probably saw or would see very soon a crowd coming to Jesus to discover whether He was the Messiah and ready to be harvested into the kingdom of God.

4. How do Christians normally sow and reap a harvest? Why can both sowing and reaping be times of rejoicing for Christians?

Normally, one or more Christians sow the seed of the word of God, truths from the Bible, into the minds of unbelievers; then later, another Christian reaps the harvest for Jesus when the unbeliever comes to faith in Jesus. Sowers can rejoice because Jesus has given them the privilege of telling others truths about Him from the Bible. Reapers can rejoice because Jesus has given them the privilege of leading someone to trusting in Jesus as

their Lord and Savior and to receiving the gift of eternal life.

5. Why did the villagers first come to believe in Jesus? After talking to Jesus, what did they come to know about Jesus?

The villagers first came to **believe** in Jesus because of the testimony of the Samaritan woman. After two days listening to Jesus teach, these new believers came to **know** that Jesus “is truly the Savior of the world.”

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