



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 6:1-14 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) 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. Why do you think Jesus took His disciples up a mountain instead of into a town for rest and relaxation?

Jesus wanted to teach His disciples by word and example, but many people were coming to Him to be healed and great crowds gathered. If they had gone into a town at that time, He would not have been able to teach His disciples as He wanted to do.

2. Why did a great crowd follow Jesus?

They “saw the signs that he was doing for the sick” (John 6:2).

3. Why did Jesus test Philip? What benefit do Christians derive from Jesus testing them?

Jesus wanted Philip to think about how much he knew about Him and Jesus wanted to motivate him to learn more about Him and what He taught. Jesus did not test Philip to learn what Philip knew or what Philip would say and do. From Jesus’ testing, Christians learn the nature of their faith and trust in Jesus and what they need to do to better love and serve Jesus and others.

4. Why do you think Jesus distributed the food to the seated crowd?

Jesus wanted to see each one personally, and He wanted each one to know that He wanted to provide and was providing them with the food they needed. He wanted people to trust Him directly and His ability to meet all their real needs. He wanted them to see that from a little basket He had the power to feed 5000 people without running out of food.

5. Why do you think Jesus told His disciples to gather up the fragments of bread after the people had eaten their fill?

He wanted to teach them the extent of the miracle He worked as a sign that He was and is the Creator as the Son of God, the Word made flesh. He wanted to teach them good stewardship of God's gifts. He wanted them to know that He was not going to be working miracles to feed himself and them in the days ahead. As before, they would need to gather their food to carry in their baskets or buy their food in the villages they visited.

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