



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of March 13, 2022

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*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.*

### Connect

- What is something that you enthusiastically started but were later tempted to quit? Why?

### The Context

Jesus is speaking to the people who had followed him from the other side of the lake after He had fed them. He declares that He is the bread of life (John 6:35) that completely satisfies - that He is the living bread that came down from heaven, and that by eating this bread, which is his flesh, and drinking his blood, they will live forever. Unfortunately, the crowd misunderstood Jesus, thinking that He was talking literally and not talking about the Lord's supper (communion) and spiritual things. They wanted what they wanted in the way that they wanted it. They heard what they wanted to hear. When you are tempted to make Jesus something other than who He is, (a provider of free stuff, a teacher who tells us what we want to hear, a king of our own making,...), remind yourself that Jesus is the King that chose to lay down His life so that we could have eternal life. In today's passage, many of those in the crowd that had followed Him for the show - the miracles, the food, the party - couldn't hear Him correctly. It was too hard for them because they were not listening with the assistance and guidance of God. So, at this hard teaching, the Jews argue and grumble, and many turn away and no longer follow Him. Jesus asks the twelve if they too are going to turn away. Simon Peter steps forward and says, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." How would you answer Jesus' question?

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

#### **John 6:60-71** NIV

"On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" 61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you--they are full of the Spirit and life. 64 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. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." 66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" 71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)"

## Discuss

1. How did many of Jesus' disciples respond to His teaching? Why do you think they responded this way?
2. What are some reasons people typically take offense to Jesus today?
3. What teachings of Jesus have you found difficult to understand or accept?
4. Have you heard any hard teaching from Jesus recently? What encouragement do you find in Simon Peter's response? (vs 69)
5. What makes some of Jesus' teachings difficult to understand and follow?
6. What could cause people today to no longer follow Christ?
7. What makes you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
8. In what ways has God's faithfulness to you deepened your commitment to Him?
9. What might faithfulness to Jesus look like today in your life? At home? Work? Neighborhood?
10. What has kept you from turning away from Christ?
11. What makes Jesus so beautiful and worth being our treasure?

## Challenge

12. How are you currently making Jesus a means to an end, rather than seeking him as the Treasure itself? Feel free to discuss this question as a group - but also encourage your group members to journal their answers to this question this week.
13. What struggling Christian could use your encouragement this week as he or she continues to follow Jesus?

**End Your Group Time in Prayer**