

STUDY NOTES

THROUGH THE DESERT

a Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Desert Food and Wine" on 7/28/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 6 (read as directed)

FEELING HOPELESS

Read John 6:1-5. The scene is set. Thousands of people came to a fairly remote location to hear Jesus preach. They all needed to eat. Jesus was about to do something special; but in verses 6-9, even Jesus's closest followers had doubts about him. Some of them even felt hopeless. The same is true today. Most of us have doubts about who God is or what he will do.

- *In what type of situations do you find yourself doubting God the most?*

GOD PROVIDES

Read John 6:11-15. Jesus made enough food out of a few scraps to feed everyone with leftovers. Jesus is showing us that he provides us with all that we need to satisfy our lives.

All the people of God can eat with enough left over for whoever wants to eat!

- *Describe a time in your life when you felt hopeless, but God provided for you.*
- *What did it feel like to see God provide for you?*

BUT WHY DO WE FOLLOW JESUS?

The people were amazed, but they wanted more from Jesus. They chased after him to make him king because they wanted him to provide more miracles for them. Here is Jesus' response: **Read John 6:25-27.**

We have to be careful that we aren't turning to the fruit of Jesus's ministry (the surface) instead of turning to Jesus himself (the soul).

We should seek Jesus to satisfy our souls, not just the physical aspects of our lives.

- *What are some ways that people seek the fruit of Jesus' ministry rather than Jesus himself?*
- *How can you tell if you are seeking the fruit of Jesus' ministry instead of Jesus himself?*
- *In your own words, what does it mean to be satisfied in Jesus alone?*

SEEKING THE ETERNAL

We don't have to hate yourself for wanting good things. Wanting to be full. It is where you are seeking your fullness. **Read John 6:51-55.**

It's okay to seek good things, but we have to remember that those things aren't permanent. Jesus is permanent. We can't get the eternal by seeking the temporal. We need the Spirit's help to seek the eternal. In verse 63, Jesus says this: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

- *How can you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you seek the eternal through faith in Jesus?*
- *Pray with each other as you seek fullness in Jesus.*