John 6:59–71

⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ 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. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

Big Idea: Belief must outweigh disappointment.

My Notes

Belief must outweigh disappointment. Disappointment will happen. Jesus won't always give us what we want, the way we want it, when we want it. If we were the sole authors of our stories, we would write the chapters of our lives much differently than he has. What we expect from Jesus and what we get from Jesus often are not the same. Our expectations need adjustment. This adjustment becomes much less difficult when we see that Jesus exceeds our expectations. He gives us eternal things, not just earthly things. When we are disappointed and saddened by the circumstances that God has allowed in our lives, we must resolve to say the words of Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." When we see Jesus as the Giver of eternal life, our belief will outweigh our disappointments.

Small Group Study Questions

As you reflect on the sermon from this week, was there anything you heard for the first time? Was there something said that challenged you or confused you?

Getting to Know You

1. When you face challenges, would you describe yourself as a "glass-half-empty" or a "glass-half-full" type of person? How does that influence how you respond to disappointments?

Digging Deeper

Our Big Idea this week is **belief must outweigh disappointment**. The path Jesus has for us may not be what we want initially, but it is the path that leads us to what we need the most. The following passages include several other encounters Jesus had with people that showed them that, regardless of any disappointment in this life, he offered them hope for eternity.

2. Read Luke 18:18–30 and answer the following questions.

How would you evaluate the ruler's question to Jesus? (v.18)

Although the ruler said that he had kept all of the commandments since he was young, what was the one aspect of his heart that Jesus identified he was still holding back? What was the ruler's response to Jesus' invitation?

After Peter declared that he and the other disciples had left their homes to follow him, what did Jesus assure them about the choice they made? Did they have any reason to be disappointed about their decision? Why or why not?

3. Read Luke 9:23–27 and answer the following questions.

How would you describe Jesus' invitation in verse 23? What do you think it means for a person to "take up their cross"?

How do Jesus' words in verses 24–25 show you that the cost of following him is worth it?

According to Jesus, what priority should he have in our lives? Why?

One of our passages this week in our VBCdaily3 devotionals (<u>valleybible.org/vbcdaily3</u>) is 1 John 5:6–12. Take a few moments to answer the three questions that we ask: What does this passage say about God? What does it say about us? What do you believe we ought to do about it?

Live It Out

John 6:66 was a major turning point in the ministry of Jesus. It says, "After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him." The people were disappointed that he was not willing to meet the needs they felt in that moment. However, the twelve recognized that he was offering them something better. When Jesus asked if they were going to leave too, Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

- 4. How has the pandemic and other challenges in our world and in your life this year challenged your faith in Jesus? What has kept you going during the tough times?
- 5. At the end of the day, **belief must outweigh disappointment.** How does the faith of believers, even in the midst of earthly disappointment, show off the worth of Jesus to those who are not yet followers?

Prayer Requests

One of the most significant ways we grow spiritually together is to pray for one another each week. Use this section to write down the requests of those in your group so you can remember to pray for them throughout the week. Remember: *what is shared in your group should stay in your group.*