

## **Bible study – w/b Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

### **John 6:1-21**

*Getting to grips with the passage:*

In John's Gospel, Jesus shows us who he is and what he's come to do both by teaching and by performing "signs". The way to understand a "sign" is to think about what it points towards. Noticing that the "signs" in John always pick up ideas from Old Testament helps us to understand them.

Jesus has just been saying that Moses wrote about him (5:46) and now he performs these next two signs around the time of Passover (6:4). It seems that feeding the 5000 and walking on water are in some way connected with God's rescue of his people from slavery in Egypt at the time of Moses (as recounted in Exodus).

#### **1. How many connections can you find between the events in John 6v1-21 and the events of the Exodus out of Egypt?**

*Hint: Key events in Exodus include...*

- *God promised to rescue his people out of slavery in Egypt and bring them into the promised land (Exodus 3v7-8)*
- *God performed "signs and wonders" through Moses to show Pharaoh who he is (Exodus 7v3-4 & chapters 7-11)*
- *God saved the firstborn sons of Israelite families at the Passover, where a lamb was sacrificed instead (Exodus 12v6-7, v12-13)*
- *A great crowd of God's people travelled out of Egypt with Moses (Exodus 12v37)*
- *God parted the Red Sea and the people walked across it (on a windy night) to escape from Pharaoh and his army (Exodus 14v21-22)*
- *The people are worried that they are going to die because of a lack of food (Exodus 16v3)*
- *God provides bread from heaven in the form of "manna" to feed the people (Exodus 16v4)*
  - *He does this to "test" his people (16v4b).*
  - *They all gathered plenty and had enough (16v18)*
- *Moses then goes up a mountain to meet God (Exodus 19v3)*
- *Later, when Moses is about to die, God promises that he will send another prophet like Moses to his people (Deuteronomy 18v18)*
- *Eventually, at the end of the journey, the people enter the promised land (in the book of Joshua)*

The surprising number of connections (even if some are quite subtle) between John 6v1-21 and the Exodus story suggests that John wants us to see these two miracles as "signs" that Jesus is bringing about a second Exodus rescue.

#### **2. How is Jesus' rescue even bigger and better than what God did through Moses?**

(You may like to think back to John 3v16, 3v36, 4v42, 5v24)

*Applying the message for today:*

- 3. Jesus "tests" whether the disciples trust that he is God's promised rescuer (6v6). What does it look like for us in day-to-day life to trust Jesus as the one who rescues us from death and brings us into eternal life?**
- 4. What other things do we trust for our security in life instead of Jesus? Why is it better to trust Jesus than these other things?**