

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: John 6:52-58

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What principles for reading and interpreting Scripture should we use in assessing whether what Jesus is saying is figurative or literal?
3. What are some ways that this passage could be interpreted incorrectly? What implications would those interpretations have on its application?
4. In verse 53 Jesus says, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourself." Matthew 18:3, Luke 13:3, and John 3:3 record three other 'unless you' statements. Compare and contrast these four statements.
5. How is Jesus' flesh and blood different than the sacrifices for sin that the Jews were used to?
6. Verse 56 says, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me." What gifts or responsibilities are there for the Christian who 'abides' (or 'remains' in some translations) in Christ?
7. In verse 57 Jesus tells us that He lives because of the Father. Does God the Father have (or need) a source of life? Why or why not?
8. What culture or class of people do you think it would be especially difficult to explain this passage to? Why?