Pacific Community Church
Growth Group Sermon Questions

Date: November 15th, 2026
Sermon Series: Standalone
Sermon Title: "More Than Manna"
Primary Text(s): John 6:28-35, 47-58

1. **Read John 6:28-35, 47-58.**

2. **The crowd followed Jesus because He had fed them. They were more interested in what Jesus could do for them than in who He is. What are some ways we might unintentionally treat God more like a means to an end than someone we genuinely want to know?**

   Leader's Notes: We can become very interested in God when we need something. There's nothing wrong with bringing our needs to God. The question is whether our relationship with Him depends on whether He meets those needs.

3. **Jesus tells the crowd not to work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life. What kind of 'foods' might people spend their lives eating that ultimately leave them wanting more?**

   Leader's Notes: Explore things like achievement, financial security, relationships, recognition, comfort, success, and approval.

4. **When the crowd asks Jesus, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus responds that they are to believe in the one God has sent. What does performance-based faith look like in the life of an everyday Christian?**

   Leader's Notes: We often feel more comfortable with something we can accomplish than something we must receive. Why do you think we so often gravitate toward earning God's approval rather than simply receiving His grace? Even ministry and Christian service can become ways of proving our worth.

5. **The Israelites received manna every day, but they still grumbled in their wilderness. The crowd in John 6 had witnessed an incredible miracle yet immediately wanted another sign. How do you currently see God's providence in your life? What are the things He has provided that you might be taking for granted?**

Leader's Notes: The Israelites had experienced extraordinary deliverance, but their circumstances still shaped their perspective. The crowd had just witnessed Jesus feed thousands, but they were already asking for more. We can become so focused on the next prayer request or breakthrough that we overlook God's present provision.

6. **AB Simpson's hymn captures a shift in the spiritual life: "Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord." Imagine that God never changed your circumstances in the way you hoped. Your unanswered prayers remained unanswered. Could you confidently say that Jesus is still enough? Is that an easy or difficult statement for you?**

   Leader's Notes: This question is intentionally challenging. Don't rush to reassure people or give an easy answer. Give space for people to acknowledge where this feels difficult.

7. **The sermon compared receiving Jesus to eating bread: simply having bread in front of you doesn't nourish you; you have to consume it. Lisa also challenged us to consider whether we're feeding on God's Word daily or just getting an occasional "Sunday brunch." What are some differences between being familiar with Jesus and having a relationship with Him?**

   Leader's Notes: Familiarity with Christianity isn't the same as intimacy with Christ. We can attend church, listen to sermons, know biblical language, and participate in ministry while keeping Jesus at arm's length.

8. **We live in a culture that celebrates independence, self-sufficiency, and having everything figured out. Yet Jesus invites us to recognize our dependence on Him. What area of your life do you find it hardest to depend on God rather than yourself? What would be different if you surrendered control?**

   Leader's Notes: Connect this to the Israelites receiving manna one day at a time. They couldn't stockpile it for the future; they had to depend on God's provision daily.

9. **Lisa used the illustration of being a fan in the stadium versus being on the team and actively participating in the game. This can show up even in a church community. How does the Bible describe what a faith community should look like? What are some ways a person can move from being a spectator to an active participant?**

   Leader's Notes: Spectators consume. Disciples participate, surrender, obey, and follow. Consider whether your group approaches church primarily as consumers of spiritual experiences or as people being formed to live like Jesus.

10. **In your own life, what do you find is the biggest competitor for your heart and attention today? What is something good that has quietly become more important to you than God?**

    Leader's Notes: Not everything that competes for our hearts is inherently bad. Avoid turning this into a guilt exercise. The invitation is to recognize and reorder our loves.