

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

August 25-26

Is It More or Is It Less?

By Rev. Keith Herron

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

John 6:56-69; <https://bit.ly/2MZRBqs>

Big Ideas Raised

- The late Andy Rooney, curmudgeon commentator on 60 Minutes, once observed, "The two biggest sellers in any bookstore are the cookbooks and the diet books. The cookbooks tell you how to prepare the food and the diet books tell you how not to eat any of it." Maybe that's how it is in faith. It's how we respond to God. We're either finding ways to make God more real in our daily lives, or we're trying to resist the tough demands of being a Christian. "Is it more or is it less?"
- Christ presents us a succulent serving of grace and nourishment, and its rich aromas tingle in our nostrils. What do we do in response to that? Do we turn up our noses and turn away or do we draw closer? Do we put a clothespin over our noses and refuse to have any? Or do we breathe it all in and enjoy the tantalizing savor that comes when we allow the meal to move us to hunger and desire?
- Perhaps it boils down to The Choice. We either say "Yes" to God and the demands of being a follower or we say "No" and dodge the real issues of living the faith.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Judas and Peter are offered as examples of faith and unfaith in these words. Judas was the diet book guy and Peter was the cookbook guy. Judas held back and played it cautious while Peter jumped into the lake and spoke up with no filter to slow him down. Which are you?
- All of us realize the either/or kind of persons I've presented with Judas and Peter are not as neat and simple as I've suggested. Most of us live somewhere in-between those two polar personalities. Judas or Peter? Cookbook or diet book? Faith or unfaith? Which will it be? Sometimes I'm more Judas than Peter. And other times I'm more cookbook than diet book. Then again I'm sometimes faith and other times unfaith. How about you?
- It begs the question: "What kind of church will we be?" Will we be the kind of church that selects certain sins we use to keep people out or will we recognize the church Christ came to inspire is so fully aware of its own sin no one is left out. Realize: No seeking searcher is kept out because the church is filled with sinners.
- Biblical scholar Krister Stendahl adds to the list of commandments this one: "(Thou) shall not read from the cookbook (without) serving the food." For weeks now we've been listening to Jesus tell us about the bread of life that's been served up to the world ... let's eat and be filled!

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>