# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 6

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:* There are so many different aspects of this chapter which could make a good club talk. The second half of the chapter has some incredibly rich things to say about Jesus, us, and the gospel, but might be difficult to communicate in a standard club talk. You might want to stick to one of the two beginning stories in the chapter. If you already went through chapters 2 and 4 with the leads I recommended then you highlighted Jesus’ miracle with wine (ch. 2) and Jesus’ divinity and humanity with the woman at the well (ch. 4). With those being the topics in the preceding weeks I would recommend going through Jesus walking on water since it brings up a different aspect of Jesus’ ministry: his control over nature and the disciples’ fear.
1. Jesus feeds the 5000+ (6:1-15)
2. Jesus walks on the water (6:16-24)
	1. Disciples get in a boat to cross the lake in a boat without Jesus (6:16-17)
	2. The wind and waves grow rough (6:18)
	3. *Miracle 1*: In the middle of the lake, Jesus shows up walking on water (6:19a)
		1. The disciples are terrified (6:19b)
		2. The disciples are told to not be afraid (6:20)
	4. *Miracle 2*: When Jesus gets in the boat they arrive immediately at their destination (6:21)
	5. The crowd tries to catch up and find Jesus and the disciples (6:22-24) [Not needed for a talk]
3. Jesus the bread of life (6:25-59)
4. Jesus is deserted by many disciples (6:60-70)
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| Possible main point(s):* Jesus helped his closest friends, the disciples, when they were terrified for their lives
* Hear Jesus’ words: “It is me, do not be afraid”. Think of a difficult situation you are facing right now. Hear those words again: “It is me [Jesus], do not be afraid.”
* Jesus did two things humans can’t do: 1) he walked on water *and* 2) he helped get them safely ashore, not slowly, but immediately (in a miraculous way). Jesus is God.
* The disciples took Jesus into the boat and they immediately “arrived” where they needed to be. Will you take Jesus into your life? He might “immediately” change your life as you know it right away.
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus came to the disciples when they needed him
* Jesus calms their fears by identifying himself “It is I”
* Jesus is not mere man, he is divine: he walked on water and he made the boat arrive “immediately” though it was likely several miles from the shore.
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| What this has to do with our life:* We all face situations where we feel fear. Everyone has fear whether they admit it or not.
* They were willing to take Jesus into the boat. When they did that, they “arrived.”
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| Relevant technical details:* “Disciple” (v.16) = Close friend, follower, learner, apprentice of a master
* “lake” (v.17) = Sea of Galilee. This lake was 600ft below sea level. Cool air from the southeast could (and still can) rush in and churn up the water into a violent squall.
* “rowed for three or three and half miles” (v.19) = The lake was 12 miles wide by 7 miles long. The path they were rowing may have put them nearly in the middle of the lake based on their path. Mark 6:47 states the boat was in the middle of the lake.
* Terrified / Afraid (v.19,20) = Literally: they “feared,” Jesus said “I am... don’t fear.” The word for fear is where we get our word “phobia.” It means to fear, to want to “take flight/leave,” be alarmed, terrified.
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| Possible illustrations:* Boat/Raft - This would be ideal. I would get in the boat and do the talk from there. You could also illustrate how the disciples brought Jesus “into” their boat; this could be the key moment near the end of the talk.
* Soundtrack of wind and waves - Dramatically describe what it would be like for experienced fishermen to be caught in the middle of a major storm. Play a soundtrack in the background, keep turning it louder and louder.
* Fear - You could talk in a funny way (fear of spiders) or a deep way (fear of failure/family/etc.) w/ a picture etc.
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

John 6 (NIV84)

*Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*

**6** Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, 9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

*Jesus Walks on the Water*

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. 18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. 19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. 20 But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” 21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. 23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

*Jesus the Bread of Life*

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

26 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

28 Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

29 Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

30 So they asked him, “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 “Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this bread.”

35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

43 “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. 44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. 47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

53 Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

*Many Disciples Desert Jesus*

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. 65 He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”

66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

67 “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

70 Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” 71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)