

MEN'S BREAKFAST - REJECTED AGAIN

1. What is the big annual 'Feast day' for your family? Who usually comes? What is served? What is the big pastime?
2. What family traditions are you going to preserve for your children?
3. What truths are hard for you to accept? Why?
4. How did your family typically handle conflict when you were growing up?

John 10:22-42 (NCV) *Jesus Is Rejected*

²² The time came for the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the Temple in Solomon's Porch. ²⁴ The Jews gathered around him and said, "How long will you make us wonder about you? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I told you already, but you did not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name show who I am. ²⁶ But you don't believe, because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

³¹ Again the Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus. ³² But he said to them, "I have done many good works from the Father. Which of these good works are you killing me for?"

³³ The Jews answered, "We are not killing you because of any good work you did, but because you speak against God. You are only a human, but you say you are the same as God!"

³⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written in your law that God said, 'I said, you are gods.' ^a ³⁵ This Scripture called those people gods who received God's message, and Scripture is always true. ³⁶ So why do you say that I speak against God because I said, 'I am God's Son'? I am the one God chose and sent into the world. ³⁷ If I don't do what my Father does, then don't believe me. ³⁸ But if I do what my Father does, even though you don't believe in me, believe what I do. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

³⁹ They tried to take Jesus again, but he escaped from them.

⁴⁰ Then he went back across the Jordan River to the place where John had first baptized. Jesus stayed there, ⁴¹ and many people came to him and said, "John never did a miracle, but everything John said about this man is true." ⁴² And in that place many believed in Jesus.

Discussion: This festival, Feast of Dedication, is about two months after the feast of Tabernacles in December - what is now called Hanukkah. Celebrates when the Maccabeas restored and purified the temple.

1. Given the meaning of the Feast of Hanukkah (when Jews remember their deliverance during the Maccabean revolt, 168—165 B.C.), what feelings about Rome's authority might surface among the crowds? How would Roman authorities prepare for this feast? What might be the real intent of the Pharisees' question in verse 24?

2. What question did the Jews ask Jesus? (10:22-24) What were they expecting the Messiah, the Christ to do?

3. How did Jesus answer the Jews' question? (10:25-26)

4. What did Jesus say His sheep did?

5. What did Jesus say He gave to His sheep? (10:28)

6. What did Jesus say that no one could do to His sheep? (10:28-29)

7. Why did Jesus say no-one could steal them out of the Father's hand?

8. Some would interpret this in verse 28 to say that one who believes in Jesus for salvation will never be lost. Believers sin and stumble, what do you think?

9. With whom did Jesus claim to be one? (10:30)

10. How did the Jews respond to Jesus' claim? (10:31)

11. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus? (10:33) How?

12. How did Jesus respond to the Jews' accusation of blasphemy? (10:34-36) How do the leaders interpret Jesus'

claim to be one with God? How does Jesus sidetrack them (v. 34; Ps 82:6)?

13. What is Jesus' point in 10:34-36?

14. As before, what is the evidence that Jesus' audacious claims are true, not blasphemous (10:37-38)?

15. Under what circumstance did Jesus say that the Jews should believe in Him? (10:37)

16. Why did Jesus say that the Jews should believe in His miracles? (10:38)

17. What did the Jews try to do to Jesus? (10:39)

18. Where did Jesus go after He escaped from the Jews? (10:40)

19. Why did the people across the Jordan believe in Jesus? (10:41-42) What could account for the difference in reception Jesus received across the Jordan (w. 40—42)?

John 6:37-40 (NIV) 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."

1 John 5:11-12 (NIV) 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Psalms 82:6-7 (NIV) "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' 7 But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler."

Romans 6:23 (NIV) 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:18-22 (NIV) 18 But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." 20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in

our hearts as a deposit, **guaranteeing** what is to come.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV) 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

REFLECTION:

1. What has convinced you that Jesus is the Messiah? What "old ways" of looking at Jesus must you overcome by faith?
2. What difference does it make that Jesus is God and not just a man? Would the promise of verse 28 mean much otherwise?
3. Why do people today fail to realize that Jesus is God?
4. In what way are you Jesus' sheep?
5. What makes you feel secure in your relationship with your friends?
6. What makes you feel secure in your relationship with God?
7. How secure is your relationship with God?
8. Why does Jesus' claim to be God cause people to oppose Him?
9. Who today would find Jesus' claim to be God offensive?
10. In what way is Jesus' relationship with God significant for your relationship with God?

11. Why should people believe in Jesus?

