

Take-Home 1: Could a Jew Say This?

What We Found

Scripture prohibits consuming blood repeatedly and solemnly: given to Noah before Israel existed, repeated to Israel with the warning of being cut off, and grounded in a principle, that the life of the flesh is in the blood and life belongs to God (Genesis 9:3-4; Leviticus 17:10-14; Deuteronomy 12:23).

Against that backdrop we read John 6. When his audience was shocked, Jesus did not soften his words; he intensified them, shifting to the more concrete Greek verb *trogo*, often rendered eat and capable of implying chewing, and calling his flesh true food and his blood true drink. Many disciples left, and he let them. Peter stayed with the words we now pray: Lord, to whom shall we go?

Voices of the Church

St. Ignatius of Antioch (d. c. 107)

Writing within living memory of the apostles, Ignatius described teachers who stayed away from the Eucharist because they did not confess that it is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, the flesh which suffered for our sins and which the Father raised (*Letter to the Smyrnaeans* 7).

St. Justin Martyr (d. c. 165)

Explaining Christian worship to a pagan emperor around the year 155, Justin wrote that Christians do not receive the Eucharist as common bread or common drink, but as the flesh and blood of the Jesus who was made flesh (*First Apology* 66).

St. John Chrysostom (d. 407)

In summary of his preaching on John: when the crowd found the saying hard, Jesus did not explain it away; the Eucharist calls for faith before comprehension, and we should approach the altar with the awe the words deserve.

Live It This Week

- Read John 6 once more on your own, out loud if you can, and mark every place Jesus could have softened his words and did not.
- At Mass this Sunday, listen for the moment the priest says the words of Jesus over the bread and the cup, and silently pray Peter's words: Lord, to whom shall we go?
- Fill in the My Guess box below, seal this sheet (fold and staple, or use an envelope), and bring it next week. Do not sign your name.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

My Guess (seal this and bring it back)

In John's Gospel, Jesus's final recorded word from the cross is: It is finished (John 19:30).

What do you think was finished? Write your honest guess below. No one will read it until the night we open these together, and you will not sign it.

My guess: _____

Before Next Session

Read Exodus 1-2, the story of Israel's slavery in Egypt, so the world of the exodus is fresh.

Catechism references for this session: CCC 1336, 1381, 1406.