

# A.C.T.S.

## Our 'Core Values' at Gilcomston Church

We believe it's important that everyone is clear as to what we are about as a local fellowship: we've set this out as four basic 'parameters' defining our aspirations and priorities, and it's these which we will be working through in this series of studies drawn from John's gospel.

You can find the background to this short series [here](#).

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### 3. John 6.1-24 [w/b Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019]

*“.., He asked this only to test him ..”*

Training our members for fruitful lives of ministry in the service of Jesus Christ is the third of our ‘core values’: and it’s with this in view that we look at the passage covered in this study.

Training takes teaching to a different level. These first followers of Jesus will be sent out with the call to ‘make disciples of all nations’: although the Spirit of God will come upon them to be their enabling, they also require to be trained by Jesus for this task. We are no different!

*[It would be great if you can cover all the questions, but there may not be time in your Community Group! Try and ensure that in this study you at least cover questions 1, 4, and 6. And as always make sure you leave good time for shared prayer!]*

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1. **Read John 6.1-24.** Reading through these first 24 verses of the chapter provides a bit of helpful context for the ‘training’ which the disciples of Jesus are here being given.

What training (for your work, or for responsibilities you’ve undertaken, etc) have you received over the course of your life?

What did that training comprise, and in what ways might that be paralleled in the life of the church?

**2. Read John 6.1-4.** Jesus' ministry generated widespread interest on the part of many people with the result that a 'great crowd' invariably accompanied His ministry.

What attracted the people to Jesus?

How might such a ministry of compassion whereby many are 'healed' be given expression in our life as a fellowship?

**3. Read John 6.5-9.** The potential problems consequent on there being a large crowd in a remote place are anticipated by Jesus: it will become a 'training day' for His disciples.

In what way is Jesus 'testing' Philip?

How (if at all!) have you found yourself being similarly 'tested' by the Lord?

Andrew is aware of the total 'miss-match' between the resources available and the need to be met: in what circumstances have you felt the same inadequacy?

4. **Read John 6.10-13.** A remarkable miracle takes place whereby a huge crowd is fed from meager resources: John narrates the miracle in a simple way.

How are the disciples being 'trained' through this miracle?

What lessons might they have learned from sharing in this extraordinary event?

5. **Read John 6.14-15.** Far from 'milking the moment' Jesus very deliberately withdraws from the crowd, largely because the crowd misunderstood what was signified by this miracle.

How did the crowd (mis)understand this 'sign'?

How did Jesus Himself mean it to be understood (read **John 6.26-58**)?

6. **Read John 6.16-21.** If the disciples were somewhat bemused by the remarkable miracle of this crowd being fed, they soon find themselves in a very different sense 'all at sea'!

What lesson would the disciples have learned from this experience?

How might this have equipped them for the ministry which they themselves would subsequently be exercising?

In hindsight can you see ways in which 'stormy' times in your life have been used by the Lord to equip you for and in His service?

**7. Read John 6.22-24.** The crowd were not to be easily put off seeking Jesus out: having been so wonderfully and miraculously fed they understandably were eager for more.

Do you think that people today are 'in search of Jesus'?

What 'training' would you most value as you seek to serve Jesus in today's world?