



Jesus said, 'I am... the bread of life'

John 6 – Leader's version

For an hour study just do the starred * questions

Check in – ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

If you're able to show a (biblically accurate) DVD or YouTube clip of the miracles in John 6 v 1-21, this might be a good way to cut down on how much Bible reading needs to be done today!

What does the passage say and mean?

1. Read John 6 v 1-13. Describe this miracle.

Jesus feeds 5000 people with just five small loaves and two fish and there is enough left over to fill twelve baskets of food. (Probably 5000 men, therefore likely over 10,000 people in total!)

2. Read John 6 v 14-24. Describe the two miracles that Jesus did the following night.

1. v19, *Jesus walks on water.* 2. v21, *the boat immediately reaches the shore when Jesus gets into it.*

3. What did the crowd do the next day? (v22-24)

They went in boats to find Jesus at the place where he had fed the 5000. When they didn't find Him there, they got back in the boats and went to Capernaum (somewhere Jesus often went).

4. **SHOUT-OUT** Why do you think the crowd did this?

Looking for food? Looking for Jesus? Looking for entertainment? Etc. Don't try to come to a conclusion.

?

Are you looking for Jesus? Why?

5. Read John 6 v 25-26. What does Jesus say about why the crowd looked for Him on the second day?

Jesus said they were just looking for food; not for Him and not even for more miracles.

6. Read v27. What does Jesus say is more important than food?

Eternal life. And He says that He can provide this!

7. Read v27-29. What does Jesus say we need to do in order to receive eternal life?

Believe in Him.

Read John 6 v30-35

Questions 8-10 are **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTIONS**. Let the group work on them in pairs.

8. **SDL** What does the crowd ask from Jesus?

A sign (miracle) so that they can believe in Him.

Don't forget that this is the huge crowd that was fed with just a packed lunch yesterday! They've had their sign!

9. **SDL** What do they remind Jesus of?

The manna God gave to the Israelites to eat in the desert for 40 years (see Exodus 16).

10. **SDL** Since they're on the subject of bread, Jesus uses the picture of bread to explain something about Himself. What does He say in v33-35 and what does He mean?

He says that the bread of God isn't the miracle of manna, or the feeding of a huge crowd, it's the One who comes from heaven and gives life to the world. He then says that He is the bread of life – the One who came from heaven and gives life to the world.

11. **SHOUT-OUT** What do you think spiritual hunger is?

To desire to know God (and, when we know Him, to know more of Him even though we're not 'starving' – don't push the analogy further than Jesus intended it to go!).

?

Be honest. Are you spiritually hungry?

(Remember that someone who trusts Jesus can continue to be 'hungry' for more even though they are 'full!')

12. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that someone who comes to Him will never be hungry or thirsty (v35)?

Jesus was talking about spiritual hunger and thirst: the need to know God. The person who follows Jesus will never be spiritually hungry or thirsty, because Jesus has provided all they need in His death and resurrection. (However, as above, they can still hunger for more – not to be 'more saved' or 'a better Christian' etc, but to know God more, e.g. Philippians 1 v 9-11).

Read John 6 v 47-59

13. What does Jesus say is the bread of life (v51)? What does He mean?

His flesh, which He will give for the life of the world. Jesus is alluding to his death on the cross. Therefore to 'eat of this bread' is to repent and believe in Jesus – His life, death and resurrection. (Jesus is not referring to communion, which had not been instituted yet).

14. What does Jesus say about the people who ate the manna (bread) in the desert and how was this bread very different from Jesus as the bread of life? (v47-51)

The people who ate the manna eventually died. But people who 'eat' the bread of life (Jesus) will not die: they will have eternal life with Him.

15. Read v52. How much have the people understood?

Very little – they're still taking Jesus literally.

16. How did the crowd react to Jesus' teaching about the bread of life and why do you think this was? (v66) How did the 12 disciples react? (v67-69)

The crowd found it such a hard teaching that many walked away. Ultimately, Jesus was saying that there is only one way to heaven – through Him – and people found this too hard to accept. The Twelve – as spokesman, Peter says that there is no-one else to go to for eternal life and they know that Jesus is God.

?

What is your response to what you have heard about Jesus today?

If you have time, consider why people find it so hard to accept that there is only one way to be saved / get to heaven / have eternal life etc. (It doesn't allow for me to 'do it my way', means I have to submit, your truth isn't my truth, etc. Bring the discussion back to personal responses before you end – don't finish the session on a negative note!!)

Check out – ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.

Jesus said, 'I am... the bread of life'

John 6

What does the passage say and mean?

1. Read John 6 v 1-13. Describe this miracle.
2. Read John 6 v 14-24. Describe the two miracles that Jesus did the following night.
3. What did the crowd do the next day? (v22-24)
4. Why do you think the crowd did this?

?

Are you looking for Jesus? Why?

5. Read John 6 v 25-26. What does Jesus say about why the crowd looked for Him on the second day?
6. Read v27. What does Jesus say is more important than food?

7. Read v27-29. What does Jesus say we need to do in order to receive eternal life?

Read John 6 v30-35

8. What does the crowd ask from Jesus?

9. What do they remind Jesus of?

10. Since they're on the subject of bread, Jesus uses the picture of bread to explain something about Himself. What does He say in v33-35 and what does He mean?

11. What do you think spiritual hunger is?

?

Be honest. Are you spiritually hungry?

12. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that someone who comes to Him will never be hungry or thirsty (v35)?

Read John 6 v 47-59

13. What does Jesus say is the bread of life (v51)? What does He mean?

14. What does Jesus say about the people who ate the manna (bread) in the desert and how was this bread very different from Jesus as the bread of life? (v47-51)

15. Read v52. How much have the people understood?

16. How did the crowd react to Jesus' teaching about the bread of life and why do you think this was? (v66) How did the 12 disciples react? (v67-69)

?

What is your response to what you have heard about Jesus today?

#