

The Bread of Life – John 6:16–70



MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst... For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:35;40

DAY 1 JOHN 6:16-24 — Jesus Walks on Water

1. List the basics of what happened in this passage of Scripture. vv.16-21
2. Look at Matthew 14. What is the first heading in this chapter? Why do you think John did not mention this in his Gospel?
3. What additional details did Matthew include in his account of Jesus walking on the water? Matthew 14:22-33

LEARN THE TRUTH

As Jesus’ ministry becomes more public, people become more divided. The crowd who constantly follow after him looking for a show, become louder in their opposition and hatred of Him, while His true followers grow in faith and trust, recognizing that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

4. What spiritual lessons do you see in the incident of Jesus walking on the water from both passages?
5. Meanwhile, what was happening on the other side of the Sea of Galilee? vv.22-24

DAY 2 JOHN 6:25-40 — I AM The Bread of Life

6. Given their question and Christ’s response, what was the crowd most interested in? vv.25-26

7. What did Jesus want them to understand? vv.27-29
8. The crowd wanted a sign from Jesus in order to believe. What did they fail to remember or understand about Moses, their ancestors and the manna they ate in the wilderness for 40 years? vv.30-34

Exodus 16:2-9

9. Do you think it is ok to ask God for signs? Why or why not?
10. What do verses 35-40 reveal or indicate about:
Jesus

Those who come to Jesus and believe in Him

The Crowd

God

DAY 3 JOHN 6:41-52 — Living Bread and Eternal Life

11. What were the Jews grumbling about? What did their human reasoning and logic conclude? vv. 41-42
12. Why is grumbling such a grievous sin? Matthew 12:33-37

13. How are free will (personal choice to believe) and predestination (chosen by God to believe) both included in Jesus' words? vv.43-47

2 Peter 3:9

14. Jesus talked about manna earlier (vv.30-34). Why did He bring it up again? v.48-52

15. What do you think "living" and "dying" means and does not mean in this context? Did the Jews get the point Jesus was making?

DAY 4 JOHN 6:53-59 — The Body and Blood of Christ

16. What did Jesus say to this unbelieving crowd about eternal life? vv.53-54

17. How did He describe His flesh and His blood? vv.55-59

18. How do the first few verses in John's Gospel help explain what Jesus means about His flesh and His blood? John 1:1-5,14

19. What do you think it means to "feed" on the Bread of Life?

20. Before His crucifixion, the last passover Jesus spent with His disciples became known as The Lord's Supper and instigated what we call "communion." What is God's intent for communion? What does it mean to you personally? Luke 22:14-23

21. What reaction did many disciples have to Jesus' teaching (vv.52-59) in the synagogue in Capernaum? Why do you think His teaching seemed "hard" and "offensive to them"? vv.60-61

22. What do you think Jesus meant in His response to the disgruntled disciples? vv. 61-64

23. What must happen for someone to come to Jesus? v.65 and any other verses that come to mind.

Ephesians 2:8-9

24. According to Simon Peter, why did the Twelve disciples remain with Jesus? vv.68-69

25. What do you make of Jesus' statement about the Twelve and Judas? vv.70-71

LOVE THE TRUTH

Have you come to a place where you can say with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." Belief in the Holy One of God is the safest place to be and causes God to grant us access to Jesus.

John 6:16-70

The Bread of Life

During His time on earth in the flesh, Jesus clearly was not impressed with multitudes of people. Crowds caused division and generally opposed Christ. They did serve the purpose though of moving Him closer to the cross, His reason for coming to earth as Savior. Jesus left the crowd and went off by Himself in order to pray, while the disciples headed in a boat to Capernaum. Though things were heating up for Jesus, He still took great care of His Twelve disciples and miraculously appeared to them walking on the water in the midst of a storm. No matter how difficult life gets, God is always with us and His message is, "It is I; do not be afraid."

In the Bible, physical signs point to spiritual truths not just for the present, but for the future and for eternity. The woman at the well first wanted a steady supply of physical water, but then rejoiced in finding the eternal Living Water. Jesus then fed the 5000, and yet the crowd did not see Son of God as much as a hopeful supplier of free bread. (6:26) We must not limit our sight to the physical because it will not last. We must instead look for eternal truth. Jesus told the crowd who wanted free bread without work, that the true work of God is to believe in the one He has sent, the Bread of Life. (6:29) It used to be common in ski towns to see bumper stickers that read, "Think Snow," as people were living for skiing. A better bumper sticker might read, "Think Eternity," because life is meant to be lived in light of eternity. "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:10,11 NIV)

Jesus spoke life giving truth to the crowd, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I AM the bread of life." "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." (vv.47-48; 53-54) But the crowd grumbled and took offense at His words. Their sight was limited

to the physical so they missed the spiritual truth that Jesus would soon give His life by shedding His blood on the cross. It is written, "The life of flesh is in the blood." (Leviticus 17:11) When Christ was tempted by Satan to turn stones into bread (Luke 4:3,4), Jesus quoted Deut 8:3 "Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." The Lords Supper, or Communion as we know it, is to remember what He has done for us and is doing for us. When we eat the bread and drink the wine, we are feeding on Him, essentially taking all of Christ into our hearts- the Living Water, the Bread of Life and the Word of God.

WALK IN TRUTH



It's been said that "what's down in the well comes up in the bucket," and grumbling is a bad sign of what's in a person's heart. The Jews grumbled against Moses and against God during their exodus from Egypt. Then, when face to face with the Son of God, their descendents grumbled against Him too. Jesus said, "what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart and this defiles a person." (Matthew 15:18) When we grumble, we miss out on what is right in front of us- the Bread of Life.

We must choose to have grateful hearts and recognize, as the disciples did, that the key to life is in Christ Jesus. The more we feed on Him, abide in Him, soaking up truth and love, the more we experience true life. The best and only place for us ever to go is to Jesus for He is indeed the Holy One of God, and He chose us to believe and be His children. (John 6:69)

Notes