

I Am the Bread of Life

Series: Divine Declarations

Life Group Discussion Guide

I. Welcome & Getting to Know One Another

If able, describe a transcendent moment; a time you sensed this world in its current nature is not all that exists and that there is more than this world holds.

II. Centering

Take a quiet moment to center your soul on God's presence. Have someone read the following Scripture aloud slowly, 3 times, after which they may lead in an opening prayer for the group time. Others may close their eyes, take a deep breath, and prayerfully listen and allow the words to speak to them.

Isaiah 55:1

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?

III. Exploring

This week we are launching into a new series that engages us with four of the divine declarations which Jesus made as he began to reveal his divine nature and provision. These come in the form of "I am" statements...a form which in itself uses the same name which God had used to tell Moses who he was, when He said: "Tell them that 'I am who I am...Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" (Ex 3:14-15). With each statement, Jesus was declaring his divinity more openly, and who he was to us more clearly. This week we allow ourselves to hear Jesus declare that he is the Bread of Life. This comes in an unusually longer context in which Jesus had just multiplied loaves of bread and fished which had fed thousands. The people have come for more.

Have someone read aloud the following section of Scripture from the Gospel of John:

John 6:25-35, 38-40, 48-58

²⁵ *When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"*

²⁶ *Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." ³⁰ So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

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 those 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 them up at the last day."

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." ⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

1. What did the people not understand about Jesus? How were their desires misguided?
2. How does this speak to your own life?
3. How does Jesus distinguish himself as the "bread of life" from earthly bread?
4. What did Jesus seem to imply about what is involved in eating (taking in) himself as our life giving bread?
5. What has served your hunger for spiritual life with God? *(This could include sharing some type of special prayer or fasting you are doing during this Lenten season.)*

IV. Ending

Break into smaller groups of two or three, as able, to pray for one another for what you might be facing this week. As an option for prayer time, share one area of your life where you feel challenged to live out the teachings from today's discussion.