

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week 2: *I Am the Bread of Life*

Week of March 5, 2017

NOTES TO LEADERS: Below are a few tips and ideas for your group times. Remember that you should choose the focus. Some weeks, you may need to focus on one question. You don't need to do everything every week.

Share it

Have you ever achieved something or made a purchase that you thought would bring fulfillment and then it didn't? Do you think people in our culture find true satisfaction?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this week is to focus on Jesus who fills our true hunger and thirst. This first question is to probe the fact that this life is not enough because we were made to know and love God. Our 'bellies' will never be fulfilled through this world.

Study the Word (the Bible)

Read John 6:14-69 and consider these questions:

1. Which 'wants' were people seeking to have satisfied? Why would Jesus' ability to fulfill these wants erupt into a desire to make Him their king? (v. 15)

NOTES TO LEADERS: The great need of people in those days was their need for food (bread). The miracle of the loaves harkened them back to the time when God fed them in the wilderness. So when Jesus fed them with the bread from heaven, they had their bellies filled – their most basic of needs. If Jesus were king, then they would have food satisfaction.

2. How is the concept of "seeking" or "working" for something used in this passage?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This passage contrasts us working/seeking to fulfill our own needs with the bread which "the Son of Man will give you" (6:27). No matter how we strive, we will still be hungry because only what Jesus gives will satisfy. (See John 6:7 Eight months' wages, John 6:12 Gather the pieces, John 6:26 you are looking for me, John 6:26 had your fill, John 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, etc.)

3. Seven times, Jesus said that He came down from the Father. How is this connected to His being the bread of life?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The bread that God sent to the Israelites in the wilderness was bread that came down from God. This entire miracle mimics the OT miracle.

4. What "hard things" (v. 60) did Jesus teach here that are difficult to believe/follow?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Eat my flesh sounds ridiculous. However, Jesus already explained the metaphor in earlier verses (e.g. 6:27, 33, 35). To eat is to believe in Him and what only He can do.

5. What does Jesus say is our real need?

NOTES TO LEADERS: That which "fills" (26) "endures" (27) is the true bread from heaven (32) which we receive by believing in Him.

Discuss Together

What are some things that we 'want' that might not be what we 'need?' What are some of the things that we pursue that don't truly satisfy?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The list is endless.

What does what we are seeking or pursuing reveal about us?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Are we pursuing the true bread or that which spoils.

How is Jesus the great provider of our true need? What should this change in our lives?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our hungers are many. But only He satisfies our soul. (Psalm 63: 5)

How would people in our relational world see that we have received the Bread of Life?

NOTES TO LEADERS: If we are seeking/ hungering after Christ instead of the unsatisfying things of this world.

May our Father give you wisdom and grace,

Steve