



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of March 6, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What kind of bread do you like most? Least?
- How often do you experience being "hangry"? What is that like?

The Context

We all know what it's like to be hungry. From the moment we emerged from our mothers' wombs, we've wanted to eat. There's not a day that goes by in my house when someone doesn't say, "I'm so hungry." God created our bodies to run on food, and hunger is the warning system telling us we're getting low. We feel the hunger. We hear the growling, and it causes us to think, I need to eat. That's what keeps us alive. We're also spiritually hungry. There's a growling of the soul that indicates emptiness inside. We were made to live on some sort of fuel, but we're not sure where to find it. We feel hungry, so we look for something to fill the emptiness inside us—something to quiet the hunger pangs in our hearts. In this passage Jesus tells us about the bread of life, the only thing satisfying enough to quiet our cravings and fill our souls. He stands in front of a crowd and says in essence, "The only way to live is to eat the bread of life." - Excerpt from: "Exalting Jesus in John" by Matt Carter.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 6:22-59 NIV

"The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. 23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. 25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" 26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed 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. For 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 sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, 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 the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 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." 41 At this the Jews there began

to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" 43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. 47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread 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, "Very truly I tell you, 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 them 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 them. 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 ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum."

Discuss

1. How do people attempt to satisfy their need to feel secure and significant in life?
2. In what ways do we often have a demanding attitude toward God? (see John 6:26, 30-31)
3. What needs do people spend the majority of their time trying to satisfy? What things do we seek from Jesus?
4. What did Jesus mean when He referred to himself as the "bread of life?"
5. What does Jesus say is the actual way to find satisfaction and eternal life? (see v35-40) How have you seen Jesus to be faithful to these claims in your life?
6. In what ways has Jesus satisfied your hunger and thirst and meaning in life?
7. What might it look like to make Jesus our chief goal, or deepest joy, in our daily life?
8. What's the difference between desiring Jesus for who he is and seeking him for what he can give us?
9. How has the Christian life turned out to be different from what you expected?
10. What promise does Jesus repeat three times in verses 44-51?
11. What can you do today to rely on God, rather than on things or people, to satisfy your needs?

Challenge

Answer this question this week: What might you be seeking from Jesus beyond Jesus himself? Is there anything you're hoping for that, if you didn't get it, would cause you to be angry with God or consider abandoning him altogether?

End Your Group Time in Prayer