

# Summary

In this sermon drawn from John 6, the pastor explores Jesus's bold and exclusive claims about Himself as the Bread of Life. After feeding the multitude, Jesus confronted the crowd with hard truths: that he came down from heaven, that He is the only source of eternal life, and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. Many who had followed Jesus for the miracles and free food walked away when His teaching became too demanding. The pastor challenges the congregation to examine whether they are true believers or merely comfortable followers who stay only as long as the message is easy. The sermon also addresses the cultural pressure to avoid offense at all costs, arguing that some offenses are necessary and even loving. Just as a person might trip someone to keep them from stepping in front of a car, the truth of the gospel can offend in a way that ultimately saves. The pastor calls the church to stand firm in sound doctrine, resist the pull toward a watered-down, people-pleasing faith, and embrace Jesus not just as a good teacher but as Lord, the exclusive way, truth, and life.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us together today. As we open your Word and discuss what it means to follow Jesus with our whole hearts, we ask that you soften any hardness in us and remove any pride that might keep us from hearing what you want to say. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation. Let this time not simply be about exchanging ideas, but about encountering the living God. May each person in this group leave with something from you, something personal and real. We trust you to do that work. In Jesus's name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

What is one food that you absolutely cannot resist, and why does it have such a hold on you?

## Key Verses

- John 6:35
- John 6:47-48
- John 6:66-68
- John 14:6

- 2 Timothy 4:2-4

## Questions

- In John 6, the crowd followed Jesus across the sea after He fed them. What are some reasons people today follow Jesus that might not be rooted in genuine belief?
- Jesus made a long list of exclusive claims in John 6, including that He is the Bread of Life and that no one can come to Him unless the Father draws them. Which of these claims do you find most challenging or most comforting, and why?
- The pastor drew a distinction between being a follower of Jesus and being a true believer. What do you think the difference looks like in everyday life?
- When the disciples said 'this is a hard saying,' Jesus did not soften His message. Why do you think Jesus chose not to make His teaching easier to accept, even when it cost Him followers?
- The pastor described two kinds of offense: one that is harmful and one that is necessary and even loving. Can you think of a time when someone told you a hard truth that ultimately helped you? How did you respond at first?
- Second Timothy 4:3-4 warns that people will seek out teachers who tell them what they want to hear. How can we guard ourselves and our community against drifting toward a comfortable but incomplete version of the gospel?
- Jesus asked His twelve disciples, 'Do you also want to go away?' Peter responded by saying there was nowhere else to go because Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. What does that kind of commitment look like when following Jesus gets difficult or costly?
- The pastor said that your personal testimony is not just about you but about the people in your life who need to hear what Jesus has done. Who in your life might need to hear your story, and what is holding you back from sharing it?

## Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you may have been settling for a comfortable, easy version of faith rather than the full truth of the gospel. It might be a belief you have avoided examining, a conversation you have been afraid to have, or a habit that you know does not line up with who God made you to be. Bring that area honestly before God in prayer each day this week, and ask Him to replace any lie you have believed with His truth. If appropriate, share what you discover with a trusted friend or someone in this group.

# Key Takeaways

- Jesus made bold, exclusive claims about Himself as the Bread of Life and the only way to the Father, and He never apologized for or softened those claims even when they drove people away.
- Many people follow Jesus for what he provides rather than for who He is, and when the truth becomes costly, they walk away. True belief goes deeper than following his hand.
- Offense is not always a bad thing. When the truth confronts a lie we have believed, the discomfort we feel can be the very thing that leads us toward freedom and healing.
- The church is called to preach sound doctrine even when it is unpopular, because it is the truth of the gospel, not affirmation of personal preferences, that sets people free.
- Like Peter, genuine disciples recognize that there is nowhere else to turn. Jesus alone has the words of eternal life, and that conviction anchors us when His teaching is hard to accept.

# Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Bread of Life and for never compromising the truth, even when it cost you everything. As we leave this time together, we ask that the things we have discussed would not stay in this room but would take root in our hearts and change the way we live. Where we have been offended by the truth, give us the courage to lean in rather than walk away. Where we have been comfortable followers rather than genuine believers, draw us deeper. And where we have a testimony of what you have done, give us boldness to share it. We trust you to complete the work you have begun in each of us. In your name we pray, amen.