

Bread of Believing Life Group Study

Scripture John 6: 26-58

Series 1 of 3

Study by Wayne Arcand

This Life Group Study supports the message by Gerry Lougheed Jr.

In the first part of John 6, we read of how Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 barley loafs and 2 fish. After he fed them, he drew off by himself in the mountain because he knew the people were going to make him king. I find it interesting that at the same time, the disciples got in a boat and left the area for Capernaum. Scripture then tells us that Jesus approached their boat by walking on water. This alarmed them but they let him in the boat after he identified himself. On finding that Jesus had left, the crowd got in boats and crossed the Sea of Galilee in search of him.

This study is set up to allow us to read a few verses and then answer the questions based on those verses. This is not an exhaustive study on these verses but one that I hope will hit some highlights and allow the study to fit within the time commitment of your Life Group. Please encourage you Life Group to consider any questions in their own quiet time that have not been covered in the group session.

John 6:26-58 NIV

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."

Whether we are new to the faith or have been on the journey for years, it is good to remind ourselves to keep our eyes on the ball. We are all fascinated when we see a magician perform a trick and we want to see more. But it is just a trick, a slight of hand that fools us. The miracle Jesus performed with the loafs and fishes was real, it had substance. The 5000 ate and were satisfied, and they wanted more of this free bread. In verse 27, Jesus is telling us to look at our priorities:

1. Have a discussion on what the "food that spoils" represents in our lives, more specifically, what does it represent in my life?
2. What is the 'food that endures to eternal life'?
- a. Where does the food that endures originate?
- b. How should this drive our priorities?
3. Considering the activities you consider a priority might help with this discussion.
- a. Have your priorities changed over time?

- b. How have your priorities changed as you aged?
- c. How have priorities changed as you matured in the Lord?

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."

4. Jesus answer in verse 29 to the question posed in verse 28, at first glance seems very simple. All we have to do is believe in the one God has sent. But as we reflect on that statement, there is so much encompassed in 'believing in the one who was sent'. Believing in the one who was sent is not just a head acknowledgement, but brings about a heart change. Discuss how this belief in the one who was sent is reflected in:
 - a. our priorities,
 - b. our relationship to others,
 - c. our attitudes,
 - d. our generosity
5. Now, having had a discussion on the above, consider the following:
 - a. What does Matthew 6:33 say about our priorities?
 - i. Take a moment to honestly evaluate your life and answer the question, "how am I doing at living this verse?"
 - b. What does John 13:34 say about our relationships?
 - i. Discuss how having the character of Ephesians 4:2,3 will enable us to live out John 13:34? Or does John 13:34 help us live out Ephesians 4:2,3?
 - c. What does Romans 15:5,6 tell us about the attitude we are to have?
 - d. What do Proverbs 3:9,10 and 2 Corinthians 9:7 tell us about generosity?

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."

6. "I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus satisfies our spiritual hunger and thirst as nothing else can. The food and drink we consume can only satisfy and sustain our body for a short time. Jesus, the Bread of Life, can satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst for eternity.
 - a. How do we receive this spiritual bread?
 - b. What are the promises in verses 37 to 40 that give you a hope for the future?
7. What is the importance of the tense that verse 47 is written in, "the one who believes **has** eternal life"?
 - a. What is the purpose of the trials we go through in this life?

b. What assurance do we have from Psalm 23?

For Personal Reflection: Based on what you may have learned, or perhaps just been reminded of, are there some changes that you have to make in your life to feed the spiritual man that our priorities, attitudes and relationship might reflect Christ living in us.