

# “Jesus: The Hungry Man”

## Summary

What if the God of the universe is hungry for something we can offer? This powerful message explores an astonishing truth: God hungers for our yes. Drawing from Leviticus, we discover that the sweet aroma of burnt offerings wasn't about the meat itself, but about people responding to God's invitation. Like someone hoping their new haircut gets noticed, God anticipated fellowship with His people in the cool of the day in Eden. Throughout Scripture, we see Jesus provoking responses: sleeping peacefully in a storm-tossed boat, walking on water as if to pass by, appearing on the road to Emmaus as though He would go further. When He approached the fig tree seeking fruit but finding only leaves, He wasn't looking for a salad—He wanted substance, something that might cost us. We were created for His pleasure, and our daily yes is like climbing back on the altar as a living sacrifice. The question isn't whether we said yes yesterday or fifty years ago—it's whether we'll say yes today. When we realize that our tiny, sometimes barely-croaked yes is what satisfies the hunger of Almighty God, it should ignite our own hunger to give Him what He desires most: our willing, costly, fruit-bearing obedience.

## Small Group Study Guide – Jesus: The Hungry Man

### A Study on Jesus' Hunger for Our "Yes"

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#### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to receive what God wants to reveal through this study.

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#### Ice Breaker

**Share a time when you were really hungry for something (food, an experience, a relationship). What did that hunger feel like, and what did you do about it?**

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## Key Takeaways

1. **God is hungry for our "yes"** - When God smelled the burnt offerings in Leviticus, it wasn't about the food; it was about people responding to Him.
2. **We are His "pleasant plant"** - God looks forward to fellowship with us, just as He walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day.
3. **Jesus provokes a response** - Throughout Scripture, Jesus intentionally creates moments that require us to respond (sleeping on the pillow, walking on water, the burning bush).
4. **Jesus wants fruit, not leaves** - He's looking for substance and commitment, not excuses or delays.
5. **We were created for His pleasure** - Our primary purpose is fellowship with God (Revelation 4).

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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Message

1. **The sermon mentioned that God's "hunger" isn't for our sacrifices but for our response to Him. How does this change your understanding of worship and obedience?**
2. **Pastor Zach shared that "my yes probably looks a lot different than your yes." What does your "yes" to Jesus look like in your current season of life?**
3. **In Mark 11, Jesus cursed the fig tree for having leaves but no fruit, even though it wasn't the season for figs. What do you think Jesus was teaching about our readiness to respond to Him?**

### Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon asked, "What are you hungry for?" Take a moment to honestly assess: What are you most hungry for right now? How does that compare to what Jesus is hungry for?**
5. **Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me" (John 4:34). What "feeds" you spiritually? When do you feel most satisfied in your relationship with God?**
6. **Pastor Zach mentioned that sometimes we're "too full to be bothered" when Jesus knocks. What things in your life might be filling you up and leaving no room for what Jesus wants to give you?**

## Going Deeper

7. **In the story of Zacchaeus, Jesus said "make haste" because He was hungry for the salvation coming to that household. Who in your life might Jesus be "hungry" to reach through you?**
  8. **The sermon described Jesus groaning in His spirit at Lazarus' tomb—not because of grief over Lazarus, but because of unbelief. How does recognizing Jesus' hunger for our faith change how you approach difficult circumstances?**
  9. **Deuteronomy 32:9 says "the Lord's portion is His people." What does it mean to you that YOU are God's inheritance and portion?**
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of these applications to practice this week:

1. **Daily "Yes" Practice**
    - Each morning, before your feet hit the floor, say "Yes, Lord" out loud
    - Journal about what God asks of you that day and how you responded
  2. **Identify Your "Leaves"**
    - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you're producing leaves (appearance) but not fruit (substance)
    - Confess one area and ask God for practical steps toward bearing fruit
  3. **Create Space for Hunger**
    - Fast from something that's been "filling you up" (social media, TV, certain foods)
    - Use that time to read Scripture or pray, allowing spiritual hunger to develop
  4. **Respond to the Knock**
    - Set a timer 3 times throughout your day
    - When it goes off, pause and ask, "Jesus, what are you hungry for from me right now?"
    - Practice immediate obedience to what He reveals
  5. **Feed Others**
    - Share your testimony with someone this week
    - Invite someone to church or to coffee to talk about faith
    - Remember: Jesus wants to feed others through the fruit grown in your garden
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## Memory Verse

**"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."**

*John 4:34*

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## Reflection Questions for the Week

- When Jesus looks at my life this week, will He find fruit or just leaves?
- What "not yet" or "yeah, but" do I need to turn into a "yes"?
- How can I cultivate daily hunger for Jesus instead of being satisfied by temporary things?

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## Closing Prayer

### **Pray together:**

*Lord Jesus, we confess that we don't fully understand why You hunger for fellowship with us, but we're grateful. Thank You that You look forward to meeting with us. Forgive us for the times we've been too full of other things to respond to Your invitation. Create in us a hunger for You that surpasses all other desires. Help us to say "yes" quickly and completely. May our lives produce fruit that satisfies Your hunger. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Main Points – Jesus: The Hungry Man

## Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the profound truth that Jesus hungers not for physical food, but for relationship and fellowship with His people. Drawing from the Old Testament imagery of offerings creating a "sweet aroma" to the Lord, the message reveals that God has always desired a people who would respond to Him with wholehearted obedience. Through multiple biblical accounts of Jesus being hungry, the sermon demonstrates that His true hunger is for our faith, trust, and willingness to say "yes" to Him. The central point is that the Creator of the universe longs for intimate fellowship with humanity—a desire so strong that it motivated Jesus to endure the cross "for the joy set before Him." This sermon challenges believers to examine their own spiritual hunger and to recognize that just as Jesus hungers for us, we should hunger for Him and the bread of life He offers.

## Key Points:

- God's hunger is not for physical offerings but for people who respond to Him with obedience and faith
- The "sweet aroma" of offerings in Leviticus represents God's pleasure in our "yes" to Him
- Jesus consistently provoked responses from people to draw out their faith and commitment
- God created humanity for His pleasure and fellowship, as seen in the Garden of Eden
- Jesus doesn't want our "not yet," "tomorrow," or "yeah, but"—He wants fruit, not just leaves
- We are called to be living offerings, daily climbing back on the altar with our "yes"
- Jesus provides the bread of life that truly satisfies, ending our spiritual hunger
- Our testimonies and the fruit God grows in us become bread to feed others

## Scripture References:

- Leviticus 1:9 (sweet aroma to the Lord)
- Isaiah 5:1-7 (Israel as God's vineyard)
- Deuteronomy 32:9 (the Lord's portion is His people)
- Genesis 3 (God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day)
- John 4:34 (My food is to do the will of Him who sent me)
- Mark 4 (Jesus asleep on the pillow during the storm)
- Mark 6:48 (Jesus walking on water, would have passed by)
- Luke 24 (Road to Emmaus, made as though He would go further)
- Mark 11 (Jesus and the fig tree)
- Romans 12 (living offering)
- Acts 3 (Peter's vision of the sheet with unclean animals)
- Exodus 3:1-4 (Moses and the burning bush)
- Revelation 4 (created for His pleasure)
- Luke 19 (Zacchaeus in the tree)

- Revelation 3:20 (Jesus stands at the door and knocks)
- John 11:32 (Jesus groans in His spirit at Lazarus's tomb)
- Song of Solomon (garden and pleasant fruits)

## Discussion Questions – Jesus: The Hungry Man

The sermon mentions that God anticipated and looked forward to meeting with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. How does it impact you to realize that God actually looks forward to fellowship with you?

When Jesus cursed the fig tree for having leaves but no fruit, what does this reveal about God's expectations for our lives beyond outward religious appearance?

Pastor Zach suggests God provokes responses from us, like when Jesus slept on the pillow during the storm or made as though He would pass by the disciples. Can you identify times when God has provoked a response in your own life?

What does it mean practically to be a living offering that climbs back on the altar daily, and what might that look like in your everyday decisions?

The sermon states that Peter said not so Lord when told to eat unclean animals, but you cannot say not so if He is truly your Lord. Where in your life might you be saying not so to God while still calling Him Lord?

How does recognizing that we were created for God's pleasure, as stated in Revelation 4, reshape your understanding of your purpose and identity?

If Jesus is the bread of life that satisfies our hunger permanently, what temporary things are you still turning to for satisfaction instead of Him?

# Scriptures – Jesus: The Hungry Man

## Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Leviticus 1:9** - The offering creating a sweet aroma to the Lord
2. **Isaiah 5:1** - Israel as a vineyard unto the Lord
3. **Isaiah 5:2** - God preparing the vineyard with choicest vines
4. **Isaiah 5:7** - The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel
5. **Deuteronomy 32:9** - The Lord's portion is his people
6. **Genesis 3:8** - Walking in the cool of the day (implied reference to Garden of Eden)
7. **John 4:34** - "My food is to do the will of him who sent me"
8. **Hebrews 12:2** - "For the joy set before him, he endured the cross"
9. **Mark 4** - Jesus asleep on a pillow during the storm
10. **Mark 6:48** - Jesus walking on water, would have passed by them
11. **Luke 24** - Road to Emmaus, "made it as though he would have gone further"
12. **Mark 11:12-14** - Jesus and the fig tree
13. **Romans 12:1** - Living offering (implied)
14. **Acts 10:9-16** - Peter's vision of the sheet with unclean animals
15. **Exodus 3:1-4** - Moses and the burning bush
16. **Revelation 4:11** - Created for his pleasure
17. **Luke 19** - Zacchaeus climbing the tree
18. **Revelation 3:20** - Jesus stands at the door and knocks, wants to sup
19. **John 11:32-35** - Jesus groaning in spirit at Lazarus's tomb
20. **John 6:35** - "I am the bread of life"
21. **John 7:37** - "If anyone thirsts, let him come and drink"
22. **Song of Solomon 4:16-5:1** - "Come into my garden and eat the pleasant fruits"

## Additional Relevant Verses for Themes Discussed:

1. **Psalms 34:8** - "Taste and see that the Lord is good"
2. **Matthew 5:6** - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness"
3. **Psalms 42:1-2** - "As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs for you"
4. **Psalms 63:1** - "My soul thirsts for you"
5. **Isaiah 55:1-2** - "Come, buy wine and milk without money"
6. **Amos 8:11** - Hunger for hearing the words of the Lord
7. **1 Peter 2:2-3** - "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk"

## Devotional – Jesus: The Hungry Man

### Day 1: The Sweet Aroma of Your Yes

**Reading:** Leviticus 1:9; Romans 12:1-2

**Devotional:** When the Old Testament offerings were burned, they created a sweet aroma to the Lord—not because God needed the meat, but because He delighted in His people's response. Your "yes" to God is that same sweet aroma rising to heaven today. God isn't hungry for your perfection or your performance; He's hungry for your willing heart. Every act of obedience, every moment of surrender, every choice to trust Him releases a fragrance that delights the Father's heart. Today, consider what "yes" God is asking of you. It may be small or significant, but know this: your response matters deeply to Him. You are His pleasant plant, and He delights in the fruit of your faith.

**Reflection:** What is one area where God is asking for your "yes" today?

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### Day 2: Created for Fellowship

**Reading:** Genesis 3:8-9; Revelation 4:11

**Devotional:** In the Garden of Eden, God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day—an intentional, anticipated meeting. This wasn't obligation; it was relationship. The Creator of the universe actually looked forward to these moments with His creation. Remarkably, that hasn't changed. You were created for God's pleasure, for fellowship with Him. He still walks through your days, waiting for you to turn aside and notice Him, like Moses at the burning bush. The God of all glory desires communion with you—not because He needs you, but because He loves you. This truth should transform how you view prayer, worship, and daily surrender. You're not fulfilling a duty; you're satisfying the heart of God.

**Reflection:** How can you create intentional space today to fellowship with God?

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### Day 3: The Fruit He Seeks

**Reading:** Mark 11:12-14; John 15:1-8

**Devotional:** When Jesus approached the fig tree seeking fruit, He wasn't looking for leaves—He wanted substance. God doesn't hunger for our religious appearances or our "not yet" promises. He hungers for fruit: genuine faith, active obedience, transformed character. Like that fig tree,

we can appear healthy and full of potential while producing nothing of substance. Jesus gave everything for you—His life, His blood, His glory. In return, He seeks fruit that reflects that sacrifice: love in action, faith under pressure, hope shared with others, righteousness pursued. The branches that abide in the Vine naturally produce what the Father seeks. Today, examine your life honestly. Are you offering Jesus leaves or fruit?

**Reflection:** What fruit is Jesus currently cultivating in your life? What might be hindering its growth?

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## Day 4: Hunger That Transforms

**Reading:** Luke 19:1-10; Psalm 42:1-2

**Devotional:** Zacchaeus climbed a tree, risking mockery and dignity, because his hunger to see Jesus outweighed everything else. Jesus responded to that hunger with urgency: "Make haste—today I'm coming to your house." Salvation came to Zacchaeus's household not because he was worthy, but because he was hungry. Are you hungry for Jesus today? Or have you become too full of other things—comfort, entertainment, busyness—to be bothered when He knocks? Jesus stands at the door of your heart wanting to fellowship, to sup with you. He offers the Bread of Life that truly satisfies, ending the cycle of temporary fulfillment and recurring emptiness. True hunger for God leads to transformation, just as it did for Zacchaeus.

**Reflection:** What might be dulling your spiritual hunger? What step can you take to rekindle it?

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## Day 5: Feeding Others

**Reading:** John 6:35; Song of Solomon 4:16-5:1

**Devotional:** Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger again." He satisfies completely, eternally. But notice this beautiful truth: God cultivates a garden in your life, grows fruit through your experiences, and then invites others to feast on what He's produced in you. Your testimony, your faith journey, your hard-won wisdom—these become bread for hungry souls around you. Jesus doesn't just want to feed you; He wants to feed others through you. The fruit of your garden—grown through trials, watered by tears, tended by the Holy Spirit—becomes nourishment for a starving world. Who in your life is hungry for hope, for truth, for the testimony of God's faithfulness? You carry bread they desperately need.

**Reflection:** Who is God calling you to feed with the fruit He's grown in your life?

