

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "BREAD FROM HEAVEN" | EXODUS 16 | PASTOR BRIAN

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a food you hated as a child but enjoy today as an adult?

### *"Manna, Bread From Heaven" - (Exodus 16:1-36)*

After the Israelites grumbled, God provides a new form of flour, every day, that's just enough to feed His people. What are things about God's character do we learn from his provision of manna?

### *"Jesus, Bread from Heaven" - (John 6)*

In John 6, Jesus uses the memory of manna from heaven to reveal he is the bread of the life, and whoever comes to him will be satisfied. What longings or hunger does Jesus satisfy?

### *"Communion, a Manna Memorial" - (John 6)*

Eating bread as a part of Communion is a way to symbolize of someone admitting their need for Jesus and their desire to allow Him into their life. How else can people show they need Jesus?

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Manna literally means "What is it"? The Israelites were provided for in a new way that they had to try and learn and grow in trust of God's ways to enjoy. Jesus offers us a new way of living and we have the choice to taste and see that the Lord is good. Have you been choosing to satisfy and sustain yourself, or grumbling against God's way, or trying and learning more about His ways for you?

## Bread From Heaven

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 AP: Men's Brkfst. Fam Nite. Sun Nite Pryr. Baptism.
- B. Slide6 AP, Baby Dedication (2nd). *Kruz Caldwell, parents Jason and Karina.*
- C. Slide7a 4th of July: Today our country celebrates *Independence Day*. It causes me to think of words of ... *being united, free, independent, and enjoying liberty*. I look back at all those who came to this country seeking Liberty. I look at us today fearful of losing our liberties. And I look out in hope at our vast world, actually for every tribe, tongue, & nation, that they also might find what we have enjoyed ... the blessings of not only Liberty, but Life, Liberty, & the pursuit of happiness.
- D. Slide7b I remember getting to see the Liberty Bell. (18 yrs) There are 3 inscriptions on it:
1. The 1st/top Inscription is taken from Lev.25:10 it reads, **Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all inhabitants thereof.**
  2. Do people prefer liberty or to be taken care of? It may be a myth people yearn most for freedom. Many people prefer to be taken care of, even at the price of a loss of freedoms, rather than to have to take care of themselves.
    - a) Let's watch in Ex.16 as the people in our chapter once again chose this very thing, just 1 month out of slavery.

### II. Slide8a Intro: Bread From Heaven

- A. An acquired taste. (story of trying liver as a child). Can you think of one food you hated as a child but grew up to enjoy?
1. In general it takes much longer to acquire a taste for *healthy food* than it does for *sweets and junk food*. The same is true for **spiritual food**.
  2. Trusting God to provide all that we need for our spiritual life is also an **acquired taste**. It doesn't always come naturally. God wants us to lose our craving for self-sufficiency and learn to feast upon the bounty that He provides.

B. Slide8b *Oh, taste & see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts/takes refuge in Him.* Ps.34:8 *Or, Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see - how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him.* msg

1. It speaks of **Him Satisfying us**. But some of the experiences of life **tastes sour**. Sometimes the cup handed to us is not one of **sweetness** but of **bitterness**. Jesus had to drink a bitter cup!
2. Do you know what **makes a bitter cup** satisfying & sweet? It's tasting **the Lord** in it. When you taste the Lord *in the experiences of life*, they become **sweet in Him** [Note: **NOT** taste & see **if** the Lord is good...but **that** He is]
3. An **atheist** cannot find **God** for the same reason that a **thief** cannot find a **policeman**. [not looking for 1] **Taste & see that the Lord IS Good**.

C. **Prayer:** *Lord, open our mouth and help us taste. Open our eyes so we may see how good You are. We are a blest people when we hunger/thirst for You. Lord, when You make our cup sweet...may we drink it w/grace. When You make our cup bitter...may we drink it in communion w/You.* [TY for our life & liberty]

D. **Now** we move from *a time of refreshing* (15:27) to *a time of testing*. On a spiritual journey He can't/won't leave you under the trees, it's time for **growth!**

### III. Slide9a **MANNA, BREAD FROM HEAVEN (1-36)** *physical food*

A. **THE COMPLAINT** (1-3) *head south to Sinai*

- B. They've been gone 1 month from Egypt **and** are now in the **Wilderness of Sin**. **And then** food supplies start to dwindle.
- C. They **grumble** once again, instead of **trusting** God. This time they blame **Moses and Aaron**. **Now** they're wishing for the good old days back in Egypt. (complainers are often exaggerator's. **Really? meat pots & bread to the full?**)
- D. The real problem was **they still had the old appetite** and **needed to learn to enjoy the new food God had for them**.

1. Physical hunger pains **won over** their **appetite for God**. Had they forgotten **they were slaves** in Egypt? They were ready to trade their **freedom** for

**food.** But just as He had done at *Marah*. God met the grumbling **not with anger and judgment**, but with **provision**. With **abundance**. With **grace**.

2. He gave them *daily bread from heaven*. Maybe they should have just **prayed**, *give us this day our daily bread*.

E. **Slide9b THE TEST & PROVISION** (4-7) *they didn't like the meal plan at Wilderness U*

F. (4) **Test them?** - **Was it** a test of their faith to see if they will trust God to provide them with enough food to eat every day, **or** a test their faith by giving them food every day to see if they will still believe in Him when they are well fed.

1. When we're **poor** we think, *will God provide?* When we're **rich** we think, *do we still need Him?*

G. **Slide9c THE QUAIL** (8-15)

1. It happened here **but** not every evening.

H. **Slide9d THE SUFFICIENT PROVISION** (16-21) *It's the principle of daily bread.*

1. **Just enough for the day.** **Not**, I'm gonna keep some for tomorrow in case God doesn't keep His word.

2. **Trusting and Not Hoarding Gods good gifts.** In 2 Cor.8:15 Paul quotes this verse **and** puts it in the context of **generosity**.

a) Don't hoard the gifts of God. **Be a generous person.** Trust in God and be generous to meet the needs of others who are in need.

3. **How do we do giving here at CM?** 1 of CM Values is **Stewardship:** *Serving God with generous hearts as we invest our time, talent, and treasure in building his kingdom.* [agape boxes in the foyer]

**It goes toward:** *the running of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spreading of the gospel.*

a) So this is a good time to examine your hearts. **Am I being generous to the good gifts of God?** Can you say I am giving *cheerfully, regularly, & generously?*

I. **Slide9e THE SABBATH PRINCIPAL** (22-30)

J. **God is already instilling the Sabbath in them.** They did not/could not sabbath in Egypt, it will become **Law** in chapter 20.

1. The 4th commandment begins with the word *remember*, pointing back to here, & of course back to **creation** as it mentions.

K. Slide9f **THE SACRED PRINCIPAL** (31-34)

L. I want you to put some in a jar. I want you to keep it. I want you to remember it.

1. So they will never forget what **He** has done for them.

M. Slide9g **THE SANCTIFYING PURPOSE** (35,36)

N. This manna had a purpose that went beyond just filling their bellies. *It wasn't just a manna meal, but a Manna Memorial.*

1. Slide10 Deut.8:2,3 Trust My Word. *And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*
2. God was trying to shepherd their hearts. He was trying to crush *their pride, their self-sufficiency, and their arrogance.* And teach them what it means to **humbly depend on God.** And that they need something more important than bread, they need **My Word.** The God that was **trusted** for their *daily bread* is the God who's **worthy** to be listened to, on a daily basis.

O. How do we fight *discontentment*? How do we we fight *grumbling, murmuring, complaining, not trusting*? I think our answer is in *remembering* what God has done in the *past*, and *remembering* that God will act consistently in the *present*, as He did for them, every single day for 40 years [it stopped in Joshua 5:12].

IV. Slide11a **JESUS, BREAD FROM HEAVEN (John 6)** *spiritual food*

A. Jn.6:30-37 *So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" (uhh fed 5000) 31 Our fathers ate the*

*manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'* ” 32 *Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but **my Father** gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is **he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”* (they understood/mad 41,42) 34 *They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”* 35 *Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall **not hunger**, and whoever believes in me shall **never thirst**. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never (never/never) cast out.*

- B. **John 6** is dominated by **1 theme** from the **Passover...God feeding His children in the wilderness, with bread from Heaven.** [now we see it points to *The Manna Messiah*]
1. In our Exodus story we saw God **protect** Israel on the 1st **Passover** (Ex.12).  
**Then Protecting** Israel during the **Red Sea Crossing** (Ex.14).  
**Then Providing Manna**/bread from heaven in the wilderness (Ex.16).
  2. In John 6 we have **Jesus** on the **Passover**, **providing** for His children in the wilderness (out of town) feeding the 5000+. **Then Jesus** **crossing the Sea of Galilee/walking on water**. **Then** presenting himself as **the bread from Heaven**.
    - a) The **manna** came only to the **Jews** & sustained **physical life**, but **Jesus** came for **the whole world** & gives **eternal life**. The **bread of God** was **a gift from the Father**, whether it was shaped into **Manna** or the **Messiah**.
- C. **Slide 1b** If we take the **1st commandment** from the neg to the poss, **from Thou shall have no other gods before me** to **Thou shall have Me!** *That's what Jesus is saying here*
- D. (37) *Whoever comes to me I will never cast out* - There is a giant **Welcome mat** in front of Jesus' house. Which reads, *Wipe your sins on the mat & come on in.*
- E. **End:** If you've never taken Jesus **into your life**, assimilated His being into yours, **then** He is **outside** of your life.
1. You are **like a small child**, with nose pressed up against a **bakery window**. Smelling bread, seeing bread, knowing it's there **but never**

**tasting it.** But I implore you: **taste & see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him.**

a) There is a giant **Welcome mat** in front of Jesus' house. Which reads, **Wipe your sins on the mat & come on in!**

## V. COMMUNION, a Manna Memorial - physical, spiritual, memorial

A. In Jn.6:35 Jesus said, ***I am the bread of life.*** *i.e.* Jesus satisfies our deepest sp needs.

1. **Just as** you take **food** into your body, **so** you take **Christ** into your life & He becomes **one with you**. [Jesus didn't come to give bread, **but** to **be** bread]
2. You receive **bread** into your body and it **sustains life**, **but** receiving **Jesus** into your heart by faith gives you **eternal life**.
3. **To eat** something means to assimilate it and make it a part of your **physical being**. Language uses **metaphors** like, "**Well, I'll have to digest what you just said**", **or** "**I can't swallow that**", **or** "**That's food for thought.**" **or** "**Now, here's something you can sink your teeth into.**" **or** "**I really devoured that book.**" Nobody takes this literally.
4. **Jesus** manifest in the **flesh**, is **our bread of life**. **Jesus** **bleeding** on the cross a substitute for sinners, is **our soul's drink**.
5. **Bread & Cup:**

B. \*We invite you to enjoy fellowship and some BBQ'd hot dogs out front. **Happy 4th.**

C. **Keywords:** bread, heaven, Exodus, God, Moses, manna, testing, provision.

I am the Bread of life,  
 He who comes to Me shall not **hunger**,  
 He who believes in Me shall not **thirst**.  
 No one can come to Me Unless the Father draw him.

(1966, popularity cuz rt after Vatican II, no longer Lt only)