

the gospel of

JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters of 5-10 of John's Gospel. John shows us that He is the One. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the One with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the One with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the One who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

THE ONE WHO GIVES LIFE

Read the text: John 6:35, 47-59, 66-69

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.

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up

on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

In today’s passage, Jesus reveals that He is the bread of life who fully and forever satisfies our deepest longings, leading to eternal life. The way to receive this life requires feasting on Jesus - deeply partaking of all that He is and has done for us. Just as we are incapable of living without food, we can not have spiritually-thriving lives without partaking of Jesus, the bread of life.

We often look toward other things to satisfy our hunger, fulfill our longings, sustain our life and yet, we remain hungry, unfulfilled and lacking. And we often look to use Jesus and the gifts He gives without fully receiving Him as the One who gives life. In today’s passage, we are invited to not only “believe” that Jesus is the source of life (with our minds), but to “come to know” experientially that He is the only One who satisfies, fulfills and sustains.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. What is the area of life that you believe Jesus is asking you to trust Him over your own fears or plans?
2. How do you still attempt to hold on to some control instead of fully trusting Jesus? What does that look like? What would it look like to follow Jesus fully in this area?
3. Many of Jesus' followers in John 6 left Him when He wasn't delivering what they wanted in the way they wanted it. They were using Him to try to seek life on their terms, rather than trusting Him to give life abundantly in the way the really needed. Where do you tend to try to use Jesus instead of follow Him? What does that look like? Be specific and share examples.
4. We all need reminders that Jesus is the only One who truly gives life. What places or people help you remember that Jesus is better? How will you pursue being with these people and in these places?
5. Pastor Donald talked about how the disciples both "believed" and "came to know" that Jesus was the Holy One of God (vs. 69). Believing meant that they knew it was true, but "coming to know" implied they had experienced the reality of this truth. They didn't just know it intellectually, but they had experienced the truth. Have you "come to know" that Jesus is the source of life for you? What does this "feasting" on Jesus look like?