



Leader Guide

The Bread of Life

January 30, 2022

Main Passage: John 6:1-15

Theological Theme

People naturally seek fulfillment and meaning outside of Jesus, but only He fulfills our desire for meaning and purpose.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some things the world believes can give satisfaction?
- ❓ How have you experienced the reality of being failed by worldly things?

Like us, the people mentioned in John 6 were distracted by things that satisfy for a short time at best. In fact, they were generally quite poor, and every day was spent struggling for survival. It is no small wonder that they were drawn to Jesus after He miraculously fed them and provided leftovers. In their eyes, being with Jesus would eliminate their need to work for survival. Yet Jesus was not primarily concerned about their poverty. He was concerned about something much deeper.

1. The Need for Bread (John 6:1-9)

We may only possess the equivalent of a few loaves of bread and some fish. Maybe you feel like you don't have the skills or talents other people have. Maybe you feel the church doesn't need what you have to offer. And the truth is, God doesn't need any of it. He doesn't need our abilities, but He calls us to offer them and chooses to use us as His people. In offering what we have, however small, we act in faith knowing He will use it tenfold. He uses it. He multiplies it—by His power, not ours.

2. The Bread Provided (John 6:10-15)

Jesus's response to the disciples should be noted. They saw so little in front of them and had no idea how everyone would be fed. They had seen the miracles. They had seen Jesus do the unfathomable. He could have rebuked them for their lack of faith or understanding. He could have reminded them of His great power to do anything the Father instructed Him to do. But He didn't. He simply fed the people. They were hungry, and He fed them—abundantly. This wasn't a show or a spectacle. The bread and fish miraculously multiplied.

3. The True Bread (John 6:30-40; 47-58)

Moses stood between God and the Israelites and mediated an old covenant that could not save. Jesus is better than Moses: He stands in the gap between the people and the Lord once and for all, establishing the new covenant that alone saves (see Hebrews 3). The biblical way to study the great people of God in the Old Testament is not merely to draw broad moralizations from their lives but to see how they point us to Jesus and our need for Him.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?

- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?

- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?

- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)

- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC