

“I Am the Bread of Life”

Lesson 8, John 6: 1-71

Women’s Bible Study, March 15-16, 2017

Setting of both stories: Jewish Passover

1st Story: Feeding the 5,000 (John 6: 1-15)

- Human need—hunger
 - Human answers to hungry people
 1. Philip
 2. Andrew
 3. The boy
- ⇒ What can we learn from this story?
1. We all have needs/problems we can’t solve on our own.
 2. Jesus can meet all our needs abundantly, even extravagantly!

Paul: Jesus *“is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. . . .”* Eph. 3:20

2nd Story: “I am the bread of life” (John 6: 25-71)

- Background
 1. “When did you get here?” (Jn. 6: 25)
 2. “What do you want?” (Jn. 2: 37)
- Wants vs. Needs
 1. “. . . because you ate the loaves and had your fill” (Jn. 6: 26)
 2. “food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you” (Jn. 6: 27)
- “What must we do to do the works God requires?” (Jn. 6: 28)
- “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” (Jn. 6: 29)
- Jesus compares manna and true bread (chart on next page)

	Manna	True Bread	
Where does it come from?	From heaven, a gift from God Ex. 16:4; Jn. 6:32-33	From heaven, a gift from God Jn. 6:28-29; 32-33	
Who is it for?	Jewish forefathers Ex. 16:4; Jn. 6:31	The world Jn. 6:33, 37, 40, 45, 47, 51 Jn. 3:16	
How abundant is it?	Gather enough for that day, as much as you need, but don't keep leftovers Ex. 16:4, 16, 19	Gave as much as people wanted, and there were leftovers! Jn. 6:11-13 Jn. 10:10	
Does it last?	Leftovers spoiled Ex. 16:19-20; Jn. 6:27	Doesn't spoil; living bread enduring to eternal life Jn. 6:51, 27	
What does it promise?	Hungry next day; had to gather every day Ex. 16:4	Never be hungry or thirsty Jn. 6:35 Samaritan woman Jn. 4: 14	
Will you live after eating it?	Forefathers ate it and died Jn. 6:49, 58	Eternal life Jn. 6: 40, 47, 50-51, 54, 57, 58	

Jesus: *"I am the bread of life."* (Jn. 6: 35, 48, 51)

". . . This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (Jn. 6: 51)

"Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."
(Jn. 6: 53)

Various Reactions (Jn. 6: 36, 42, 60, 66, 64, 70-71, 68-69)

What does it mean to "eat and drink" Jesus?

- *"Taste and see that the LORD is good."* Psalm 34: 8
- *"You are what you eat."* (Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, 1826)
- Augustine: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."*
- James K. A. Smith: *"You have made us for yourself, and our gut will rumble until we feed on you."*
- Bruce Springsteen: *"Everybody's got a hungry heart."*
- Jesus: *"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."* Matt. 4: 4

How can we nourish our souls by "eating and drinking" Jesus?