

Mark

Lesson 10

Chapter 6:25-71

Participant Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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Jesus, the Bread of Life

Lesson 10; John 6:25–71

Prayers

Introduction

The account of Jesus declaring that he was the Bread of Life sent down from heaven immediately followed his miraculous feeding of a crowd of 5000 men plus women and children. In the miraculous feeding, Jesus gave thanks to God for the two fish and five loaves of bread, and he multiplied the gift of food to feed the crowd with 12 baskets full of leftovers. Afterward, Jesus and the disciples returned to Capernaum to find the crowd waiting and searching for him. This crowd witnessed his miraculous healings in Capernaum and Bethsaida, heard him preach, and were among the 5000 miraculously fed on the hills of Israel the day before. They wanted to make Jesus their king to provide for every need.

Read John 6:22-40

John 6: 22 On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. 23 Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 26 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” 28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 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.” 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 cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

1. Verse 25-27. Why was the crowd looking for Jesus?

2. Verse 27-28. Jesus admonishes the crowd for chasing after food. What does he tell them that they should pursue?

3. Verse 29. What work does God require for eternal life?

4. Verse 30. What does the crowd's demand for a miraculous sign reveal about an unbelieving heart?

5. Verse 31-34. What miracle would the crowd like to see Jesus perform - continually?

6. Verse 32-33. How is Jesus like the manna the crowd was asking for?

7. Verse 35-40. What do the following verses teach about our eternal security?
 - a. Verse 37, All those the Father gives, _____.
 - b. Verse 37, Jesus will never _____.
 - c. Verse 38, Jesus does the _____ of the Father.
 - d. Verse 39, The will of the Father is that _____ shall be lost, _____ raised on the last day.
 - e. Verse 40, The will of the Father is that everyone who _____ will have eternal life.

Read John 6:41-59

John 6:41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 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."

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 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. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 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. 58 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.” 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

8. Verses 41-42. The crowd knows that Jesus can work miracles and teach with authority. What can't they accept? How is this similar to today?

9. Round 2 of the conversation. Jesus repeats his claims with greater emphasis and uses prophetic language – similar to parables. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. Verse 44. No one can believe in Jesus unless the Father _____.
 - b. Verse 45-46. Jesus has seen God because he was _____.
 - c. Verse 47. Whoever believes Jesus is sent by God from heaven has _____.
10. In verses 48-58, Jesus repeats his teaching about being manna/bread from heaven except that his language becomes prophetic – very similar to teaching in parables. Do you recall the purposes of this type of teaching?
 - a. Psalm 78:2 to reveal _____
 - b. Hosea 12:9-10 to identify _____
 - c. Isaiah 6:9-10 to confound the _____
11. Verses 48 to 58 are challenging to unravel, even considering the purposes for prophetic language. What are some of the benefits of "eating the flesh of the Son of Man and drinking his blood"?
 - a. Verse 50, 53, 58: **eternal life**
 - b. Verse 56: **unity with Christ**
 - c. Discuss what it means to "eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood."

Read John 6:60-71.

John 6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

12. No one understood Jesus' teaching. How did he explain himself to the disciples in verse 63?

13. Controversy about the meaning John 6:48-58 continues today. Some denominations emphasize aspects of verse 55; others emphasize verse 63.

a. Some Christians believe Communion is a sacrament, while others believe it is an ordinance. Luther's catechism teaches that the word sacrament is from the Greek meaning mystery. The mystery is how God does his work through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

The two sacraments share common elements:

1. A sacred act.
2. Instituted by God (Christ).
3. God joins his word and himself to a visible element (water, wine, bread).
4. By which God offers, gives, and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ.

b. Christians who believe the sacraments are ordinances believe the sacraments are prescribed practices symbolic of God's promises and have the following elements in common:

1. Ordered by Christ
2. Practiced by the early church
3. Symbols, not required for salvation but practiced to remember Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin
4. Union with God is spiritual.

14. How do these two interpretations (Sacrament or Ordinance) impact communion practices in the following denominations? Match the denomination with the beliefs listed below.

Match the Denomination to number of the core belief state belief statement	Denomination Core Belief Statement
Catholic	1. Bread and wine (grape juice) are symbols provided by God for spiritual communion with Christ to express our thanks for his sacrifice.
Lutheran	2. Bread and wine remain as bread and wine, but the body and blood of Christ are in miraculous and mysterious union with the elements for the forgiveness of sin.
Methodist	3. Every action in life is consecrated to God as an act of worship; sacraments are not practiced.
Baptist	4. Elements are miraculously changed to Christ's body and blood when consecrated by the priest (or pastor) for the forgiveness of sin.
Quaker	5. The Lord's table is open to all adults and children, baptized and unbaptized, to commune with the presence of Christ through bread and [grape juice as a substitute for wine].

Closing Prayer and Blessing