

Abiding In Christ

Lesson 8

Jesus, The Bread of Heaven

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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Lesson 8 (Lesson 7 Part 2)
John 6
Jesus, The Bread of Heaven

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

John 6:51, 58

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. After giving thanks to God for the two fish and five loaves of bread, Jesus multiplied the gift of the food and fed the crowd. Twelve baskets of food were left over. Afterward, Jesus and the disciples returned to Capernaum to find the crowd waiting and searching for him. This was the same crowd who 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 16, Jesus the Bread of Life

Jn 6:26 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

Jn 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

Jn 6:28 Then they [crowd from the feeding of the 5000] asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

Jn 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Jn 6:30 So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

Jn 6:31 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jn 6:32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

Jn 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Jn 6:34 "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

Jn 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jn 6:36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

Jn 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Jn 6:38 **For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.**

Jn 6:39 **And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.**

Jn 6:40 **For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."**

Discuss

1. Verse 26-27. Why was the crowd looking for Jesus?

The crowd was back home but hungry again, so they wanted Jesus to feed them again!

2. Verse 27-29. Jesus admonishes the crowd for chasing after food. What is the food Jesus refers to that endures to eternal life?

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God, our Savior, is the food that endures to eternal life. No doubt, the people thought Jesus would tell them to do some especially good works assuring their salvation. Instead, Jesus told them to do something easy they would not do – believe that he was their Messiah sent by God.

There are good works to be done, but faith comes first because the works God prepared in advance for us to do (before creation) are done by us through the Holy Spirit. We are saved by our faith in Jesus, a faith that is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:10), then we do the works he prepared for us (also a gift from God!).

3. Verse 30. What does the crowd's demand for a miraculous sign reveal about an unbelieving heart? What is the irony of their request for a miraculous sign?

Demanding a sign is easier than faith. An unbelieving heart requires a sign that God's word is true, but no number of signs satisfies them. Jesus worked more miracles in Galilee than in any other region. These people had witnessed miraculous healings, saw Jesus drive out demons, heard him preach with truth and authority, and had been miraculously fed. But they still wanted another sign that he was the Christ.

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

They wanted daily food like the manna God supplied their ancestors when they wandered through the desert with Moses (until they died in the desert because of their unbelieving hearts).

5. Verse 32. How is Jesus like the manna the crowd was asking for?

God sent both Jesus and manna from heaven to save his people. God sent manna to save his people from starvation, and he sent Jesus from heaven to save them from sin's spiritual death.

6. Verse 33. What does the bread of God do?

The bread of God gives life to the world.

7. Verse 35. How does Jesus, the bread of life, satisfy hunger in a way that manna never could?

Jesus fills us with his Spirit so we will never need to thirst for God again. He gives us life that lasts for eternity. Manna was collected every day because people were hungry again.

8. Verse 35-40. What do the following verses teach about our eternal security?

- a. Verse 37, All those the Father gives, **will come to Jesus.**
- b. Verse 37, Jesus will never **drive us away.**
- c. Verse 38, Jesus does the **will** of the Father
- d. Verse 39, The will of the Father is that **none** shall be lost; **all will be** raised on the last day.
- e. Verse 40, The will of the Father is that everyone who **believes in Jesus as their Savior** will have eternal life.

9. How is God's pattern of gathering manna in the morning and quail by evening similar to how we abide in Christ?

The Israelites' day began and ended by witnessing God's miraculous provision for their needs with manna and quail. Like we are called to reflect on God's miraculous provision for our physical and spiritual needs through Christ. We begin our day recognizing God's great calling for us to love our family, friends and coworkers and end our day with thanks, reflecting on the grace and mercy he showed us throughout the day.

Closing, A Morning Prayer by Martin Luther

I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You.

AMEN