

Week 5 - The Bread of Life

Jesus Feeds 5,012!

This week we read how John presents the way Jesus meets our greatest needs as the “I am” of the Bible that is now present in our everyday world.

1 - Praying With Boldness

This week Pastor Tim challenged us to pray with boldness. What bold prayers did God answer in the Bible? In your own life? What bold prayers do you feel God is prompting you to pray?

2 - Watch Pastor Scott's Video for Journey to The Cross - Week 5

The readings follow the **Journey to the Cross devotional booklet!**

3 - Scripture reading - This week we read about miracles 4 & 5, and Jesus' first “I am” statement...

Read John 6:1-14 - Jesus feeds a multitude...through His disciples

- *John's readers would have been familiar with the goddess Ceres, who Greeks attributed the growth of grain crops (we get the word cereal from her name). In this passage, Jesus causes bread to multiply simply through prayer to the God of Creation.*
- *John includes some details in his narrative that reveal Jesus:*
 - *Barley was harvested in Galilee at Passover season, reminding readers of the manna that God provided the Israelites in the wilderness when they left Egypt > **Jesus is our Daily Bread***
 - *The people were divided in groups to sit in the grass, the way a shepherd would divide sheep into groups to provide food and shelter > **Jesus is our Shepherd***
- *The disciples are worried if there is enough food for them to eat! But after Jesus prays, He hands the food to the disciples to first serve the people. After they serve, how many baskets of leftovers are collected?*

Read John 6:35-51 - Jesus is the Bread of Life

- *The miracle of the loaves and fish highlights the way that Jesus provides for those who believe in Him. In this passage He equates Himself to the manna God provided from heaven, which appeared at Passover time.*
- **Read Exodus 16:1-4, 14-18, 31-35** - *A really important connection as Jesus is explaining that the manna in Exodus illustrates Jesus as **the Bread of Life**, and how **the bread of Communion** represents His body, and how He teaches us to pray “give us each day **our daily bread**”?*
- *How do these connections help us think about Jesus as the one who sustains our life journey as His followers?*

Pray together!

- **Use the Week 3 prompt in the United in Prayer section in the booklet!**



A DISCIPLE'S WALK THROUGH
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Above - pita loaves made with barley flour and sardines from the Sea of Galilee

The Barley Harvest

The first grain crop harvested each year in Israel is barley, which begins to sprout in the early Spring, at the same time as the Passover festival. Leviticus chapter 23 lists the “feasts of the Lord” starting with the weekly Sabbath, and then moves to the yearly festivals connected to the seasons of harvest in the Holy Land. On the first day after the Sabbath after Passover is First Fruits to celebrate the first cut sheaves of barley, which were waved by the High Priest at dawn on Sunday morning in the Temple - *exactly when Jesus was rising from the tomb!*

See Leviticus 23:9-14 for a description of First Fruits, and read what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 to describe Jesus as our Firstfruits that begins the harvest of souls rescued from death!



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