



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 6:22-51

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22?The next day, the crowd ... saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, [so] they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.**25?**When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

26?Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.**27?**Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set his seal of approval on him.”

28?“What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked.

29?Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent.”

30?“What sign, then, are you going to do so that we may see and believe you?” they asked. “What are you going to perform?**31?**Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: **He gave them bread from heaven to eat.**”

32?Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**33?**For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34?Then they said, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35?“I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.”

36?But as I told you, you’ve seen me, and yet you do not believe. **37?**Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who 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?**This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day. **40?**For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

41?Therefore the Jews started grumbling about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” **42?**They were saying, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

43?Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling 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 listened to and learned from the Father comes to me— **46?**not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father.

47?“Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. **48?**I am the bread of life. **49?**Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50?**This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone 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. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

Sermon Summary:

After feeding the 5000, the crowds continue to follow Jesus to Capernaum. Jesus challenges them with the statement “Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life” (v. 27). The crowd can only think about the bread they were given as well as the manna given to their forefathers in the wilderness. Jesus shows them that what they need is not a miracle of bread but “true bread from heaven.” Also, the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. The turning point is verse 35 where Jesus declares: “I am the bread of life.” This must have been difficult for the crowd to understand.

There are some parallel statements that Jesus uses to help understand how to receive the bread. He uses “comes to me” and “believes in me” in verse 35. He uses “sees the Son” and “believes in him” in verse 40. The writer of this gospel continues the believing thought in this section. Jesus as the bread of life who gave himself for the life of the world should be a guiding principle for our daily life.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think the crowd is fixated on physical bread?
2. How does Jesus’ declaration “I am the bread of life” shock the hearers?
3. How does a person receive the bread of life based on these verses?
4. What is the Father’s role in receiving the bread from heaven and why is it so important?

5. What is our role in receiving the bread?
6. How should we understand the interworking of our role and the Father's role?
7. What does "Don't work for the food that perishes" mean to you? What does "...work for the food that lasts for eternal life" mean to you?

End with Prayer:

- Pray that we would have a much deeper appreciation of Jesus as the bread of life.