

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of May 6, 2018

“True Bread of Heaven” Pastor Hook 8:15, Pastor Temple 9:30, 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the witness or application points from the previous meeting that you would like to share? (Following The Way, John 15:1-8)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- In a 60 minutes interview with Tom Brady, who at the time was a 3 time super-bowl winning quarterback with all the marks of “success,” he said he felt that he was meant for something greater. Yet when asked what it was, he said “I wish I knew.” How do you explain his response?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, John 6:25-40. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” ²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” ³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you,

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. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 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 them up at the last day.”

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Those speaking with Jesus in this passage had been in the 5,000 + crowd who ate of the multiplied fish and loaves. What did they come seeking this time (see verse 26, 30-31)?
- Why do you believe Jesus choose to feed them and the crowd in the wilderness but not grant their requests here (verse 29, 34-36)?
- Bread has been a staple part of the diet of the human race in much of the world throughout much of history. Yet other parts of the world rely on other basic foods primarily for survival such as rice or tortillas. What is Jesus saying about himself in naming himself the bread (or tortilla) of life?
- How is Jesus, the bread of life, greater than Moses, the one through whom manna in the wilderness came?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- The conversation with Jesus continues in the following verses. Would a volunteer please read aloud John 6:41-52?
- The people had difficulty with Jesus' teaching that he was the bread of life and in verse 60 they say "this is a hard teaching, who can accept this?" Why do you believe they did not believe Jesus?
- How do you normally respond when you read and reflect upon a part of scripture that is hard for you to understand or accept?
- How do you respond to this statement by J.C. Rylie, "The plain truth is that it is want of heart, not want of evidence that keeps people back from Christ." Was this the case with the people in these verses?
- Would a volunteer please read John 6:63-69. Here some disciples no longer follow Jesus and some, such as Peter, choose to continue. What seems to account for the difference (verse 68-69)?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- How does Peter's response in verses 68-69 encourage you to continue pushing past points of theological confusion or personal unanswered questions of faith?
- How has God already given us a sign to "believe in the one he has sent (verse 29)?"
- When have the words of Jesus been greater than food to you, "full of the Spirit and life (verse 63)?"
- Belief seems like such a simple thing that Christ is asking for. What are some practical life implications for us this week that may follow for those who "believe in the one [God] sent?"

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How might our lives this week be an answer to someone's humble prayer that God send them a sign to believe in Him?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.