

Bread of Life

Seven times in the book of John, Jesus says "I am ...". These statements are not metaphors about Jesus, but rather Jesus stating that He is God. Each statement reveals part of God's character and who He is in us, making it possible for us to say, "I am new."



INTRODUCTION

In John 6:35 Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." We may be familiar with this statement, but today we learned more about what that really means. When we put our complete trust in Jesus, we glorify God and receive infinite satisfaction guaranteed.

STARTER QUESTION

What memorable food experience do you often tell as a story?

INTO THE WORD

1. In reference to John 6:35, why do you think Jesus likened himself to food when He said, "I am the bread of life?"
2. Read John 6:47-51. What important ideas are most helpful to you from these verses?

APPLICATION

3. Discuss Pastor Dave's comment that dissatisfaction is near the root of all our problems as we struggle to fulfill appetites and desires. What appetites and desires do you see yourself and others striving to meet?
4. How specifically does Jesus address these appetites and cravings in our lives?
5. In what ways do you relate to the message today? In what ways does it challenge you? Are there spiritual adjustments you need to make based on what you've learned?

PRAYER

Lord, May we say, I AM NEW. Jesus, thank you for sustaining my life. I believe what You did on the cross for me and that you forgive my sins. Satisfy me in this life and be gracious to us. Help us to understand your character so that we can live out our faith in a brand new way and be transformed from the inside out. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Question 1

People eat bread to satisfy physical hunger and to sustain physical life. We can satisfy spiritual hunger and sustain spiritual life only by a right relationship with Jesus Christ. No wonder He called himself the bread of life. But bread must be eaten to sustain life, and Christ must be invited into our daily walk to sustain spiritual life. Jesus knows we thirst for spiritual fullness since we are made that way by God, yet we often go hungry even while Jesus is always ready to fill us.

Question 2

The distinction between earthly life, which will end, and spiritual life, which can be eternal through Jesus, is clearly brought forward. We see the reality of Jesus as the source of our personal salvation and that He also gives life for the world. The parallel between ingesting our food for nourishment and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for our daily walk with Christ is also here. We often look for God's work in the world around us, like manna in the wilderness, and rarely invite Jesus deeper into our hearts and souls.

Question 3

Some examples might be earthly security, better relationships, or physical well-being. In John 6:34-40, we read that Jesus' listeners shared these desires and how Jesus responded. In the message, Pastor Dave reminds us how God meets our needs day-to-day, provides hope for the future and an eternity of all that is good. When we live out this plan for our lives, we can truly say "I am new."

Question 4

Jesus gives us meaning, purpose, value, and hope in our lives by saying "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE." He gives us more FOOD than hunger, more GRACE than sin, more STRENGTH than difficulty, and more WISDOM than confusion. Jesus helps us to find balance with our "go" and "stop" in regard to our hungers and cravings. Specifically, Jesus completely satisfies us when we trust God enough not to worry when He allows things that we don't understand.