



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 3

Jesus proclaims himself the bread of life. While we spend time focusing on the bread to put in our bellies to satisfy our appetites, Jesus is offering us life. We can take him into our hearts, believing that he is from God and is all we need for everlasting life. We might experience physical hunger in our lives, but with Jesus, we never have to hunger for a relationship with God again. It is possible through him. This is good news like none other! May you live in this truth all week long as you listen to God through scripture and prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

Jesus, you are the Bread of Life.

I believe.

Jesus, you are all I need for eternal life.

I believe.

Jesus, you know the hunger in my belly and in my spirit.

Fill me up, Lord!

Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 6.25-29

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."

- Jesus seemed to be constantly urging the crowds to see the bigger picture. When you are hungry, you want bread. But Jesus is capable of far more than supplying bread. He tells the crowd that they should be working for food that “endures to eternal life.” The crowd then focuses on the idea that they can work for this food that lasts. We often have a similar approach to the things of God. *When will God feed us? How can we earn it?* But Jesus reveals that the work is simply to believe.
- *Jesus, thank you for patiently revealing the truth that moves us from earthly hunger to eternal life in you.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 6.30-35a

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”

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.”*

³⁵ *Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.*

- *What will you do?* Have you ever asked God that question when you find yourself at the end of your rope? The question is full of faith and desperation. *We know what you’ve done in the past—what will you do today?* Jesus moves us towards an understanding of who he is in the simplest terms possible. He is the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Asking Jesus what he will do today can prepare your heart for a deeper awareness of what he is already up to in your life.
- *God, you have moved in the past to give me what I need. Give me the true bread today. Give me Jesus.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 6.35b-40

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 find yourself in any way drawn to Jesus, know that you will never be driven away by Him. He welcomes us because God the Father desires that we would have eternal life in Him—that we would join Jesus in the full presence of God one day. Are there barriers in your life or in your heart that make it difficult to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
- *God, eternal life with you is the desire of my heart. Stoke the fire of faith within me. Help me to always believe.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 6.41-47

At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

⁴³ *“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered.⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father*

except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

- Just when it seems that there might be a major breakthrough in belief, someone starts to question how the One sent from God could show up in an average family. Have you ever watched someone grow up to become a famous or powerful person? It can be difficult to grasp because you've seen too much. The Jews knew Jesus' parents! *How can he come from heaven when he really comes from Nazareth?* Jesus doubles down and repeats his promise that belief in him will lead to eternal life.
- *Jesus, I have questions. I don't know exactly how it is that God can show up in a normal neighborhood in a normal family. But I want to be taught by you. Form my heart and give me this eternal life!*

FRIDAY: JOHN 6.48-51

I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

- Out of all of the signs and wonders performed by God in the sight of God's people, this One is the one that leads to a life that does not end. Jesus has been employing a metaphor that the crowds would understand—he is bread. But here we can begin to see that it is more than a metaphor. His flesh really was given that we might have life. Take in this bread and live forever!
- *Jesus, the gift of your flesh for the sake of the world is the only hope I have. Thank you for giving me life through it.*

SATURDAY: MATTHEW 4.1-4

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- Jesus is the Word that comes from the mouth of God! We will live in him alone. Jesus was quoting the scripture in the face of temptation. If the devil had been successful, the story of redemption for the whole world would have been exchanged for a temporary satisfaction of hunger. We can relate to those moments. We give up life for a fleeting comfort. Jesus reorients our lives by living in God's bigger story.
- *Jesus, you are the Word of God for me and for the whole world. My life is in You.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob said,

*“...you don’t have to do anything to eat at this table, you just have to believe. And there ain’t nobody that can make anybody else believe. You can’t make your kids believe, you can’t make your grandkids believe. You can’t make your co-workers or your country believe. That’s your choice. And it is a choice to believe. You have to say, ‘I know that I can’t earn life, I fall short too many times, but I believe in Jesus, so I am claiming a better story for my life starting now.’
Do you want to do that?”*

What does a better story written by Jesus look like for you?

Are you ever frustrated by your inability to make someone else believe what you believe?