



WEEK 1

## I Am the Bread of Life

John 6:22-40 cf. John 8:54-59, Exodus 16

### OPEN

This is our first week of our series called “I Am” where we will be exploring the 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus throughout the gospel of John. The gospel of John is written as an answer to the question “**who is Jesus?**” John opens introducing Jesus as the Word of God, sent from heaven to earth, to reconcile people back to the Father. John continues to highlight the person and purpose of Jesus by answering the question of his identity in two key ways; by *declaring* and *demonstrating* who Jesus is. He demonstrates who Jesus is by highlighting 7 miracles. He declares who Jesus is through the 7 “I am” statements. As we study these statements they not only teach us about Jesus’ true identity, but describe the type of relationship he desires to have with us. Each statement is an invitation to not simply know who Jesus is but to receive the purposes he has for our lives.

### READ

- **Read and compare John 8:54-59 and Exodus 3:13-15**
  - John 8:58 is one of the most powerful statements Jesus makes about himself. The Jews heritage was rooted in Abraham and Moses. What did Jesus’ use of the name “I Am” mean?
  - The Pharisees were arguing chronology with the God who created history and pre-existed before it all. Think about how the Son of God who existed in eternity past, stepped into history to redeem his own creation. How does that truth make you feel?
- **Read John 6:25-40.** *Context: Jesus is speaking to the same crowd he miraculously fed the day before (feeding of the 5000).*
  - (1) What does this conversation reveal about their hearts and how they viewed Jesus? (2) Do you think people prefer the physical blessings to the spiritual blessings Jesus offers? Discuss.

### REFLECT

- The crowd wanted to “work” for their salvation. God isn’t opposed to effort but is opposed to earning (see Phil 2:12-13).
  - How do we ensure that the lives we live for Jesus are motivated by **gratitude** (believing Jesus earned our salvation) instead of **guilt** (believing we need to earn our salvation)?
  - When you think of your own walk with Jesus have you ever struggled with living from guilt instead of gratitude? Explain.
- In John 6 the crowd was more interested in the *miracles* of Jesus than the *ministry* of Jesus. Encountering Jesus is part of the Christian life, but how to move beyond personal *encounter* to *Spirit-empowered* ministry? Where do you need to do this more in your personal walk with Jesus?
- As the bread of life Jesus want to be the *source* of *sustenance* for our spiritual lives. How’s your spiritual hunger? In what areas of your life do you need Jesus to increase your appetite? Be specific.

### APPLY/PRAY

#### Read the prayer of A.W. Tozer:

“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and *made me thirsty for more*. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, *I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still*. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ‘Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.’ Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.”

— A.W. Tozer

- What part of this prayer resonates with you? What encourages or challenges you in your faith?
- Pray for each other that God would increase you appetite for the bread of life (Jesus) to become a greater focus of your life.
- Pray that your group would find ways to move beyond *personal encounter* towards *Spirit-empowered* ministry.

