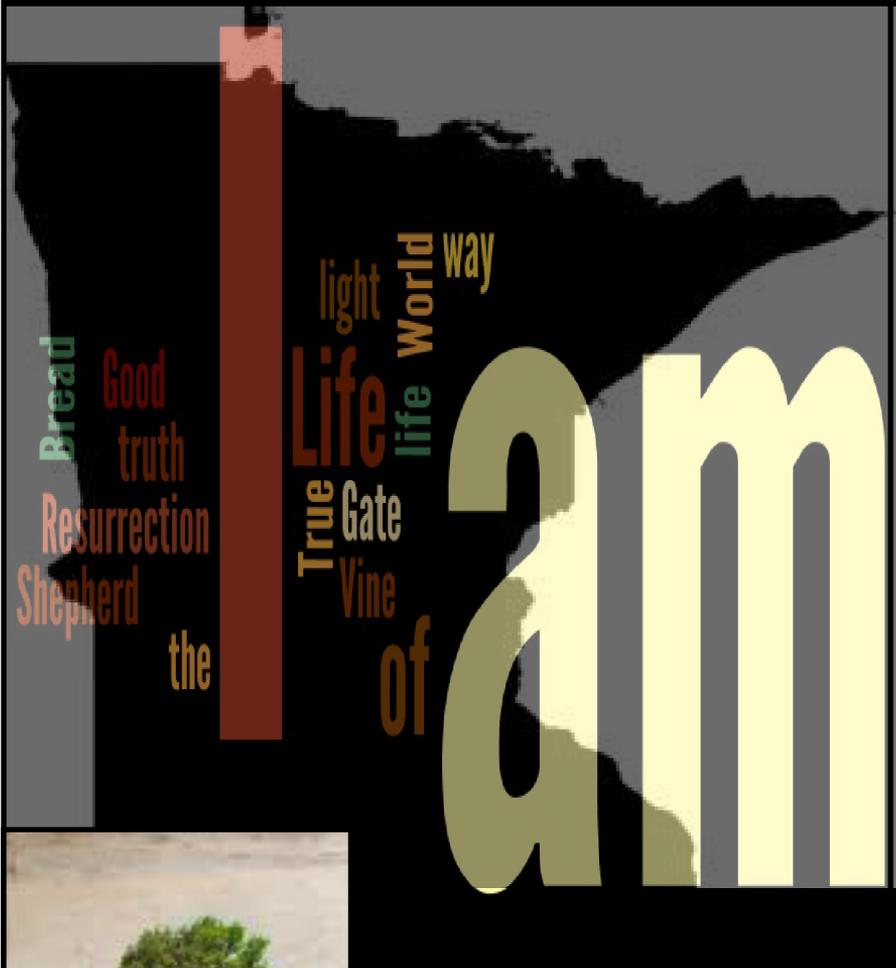


# Family Group Midweek Lessons

July 3, 2013



July 3

## I AM: The Bread of Life

*This Family Group Bible-Talk is intended to supplement the June 30th sermon at the MSPCOC. Although having attended or listened to that lesson is helpful, it is not required to take part in the following discussion.*

### **Opening Questions and Thoughts:**

- *Ask everyone in the group that is able to bring a special bread to share with the group (it can be homemade, bought at a special bread store, a unique kind of bread that they like, etc. Just make sure that you give people enough notice so that everyone has a chance to bring some)*
- *Read Exodus 16:1-8 and then let people start enjoying the different kinds of breads (if someone can't eat bread because of diet or allergy restrictions encourage them to bring some sort of similar alternative)*
- *While everyone is eating and enjoying themselves encourage a somewhat informal discussion on what the people of Israel would have experienced and learned about God through this miracle of manna.*
- What was God trying to teach them?

### **The Wrong Reasons - Read: John 6:25-27**

#### **Group Questions:**

- *Jesus was chiding the crowds for being missing the point about his miracle of feeding the multitudes.*
- What should the people have learned from that miracle?
- How can we be like them and go to God for the wrong reasons in our own lives?

### **A Different Kind of Bread - Read: John 6:28-34**

#### **Group Questions:**

- In this section Jesus was teaching that people must believe that in him alone was the life of the age to come; only through him would people have access to the Father

- *During the Exodus, the Father provided by sending manna, but Jesus was saying that this manna was from God and not Moses but also that it merely pointed to the true sustenance that God wished to provide*
- Why do you think Jesus used the imagery of manna and bread to apply to himself?

### **The Bread From Heaven - Read: John 6:35-51**

#### **Group Questions:**

- Why do you think Jesus' words that he was the bread of life, that he came down from heaven, and that only those who believe in his life were so controversial?
- In what ways are those same words still controversial today?

### **Flesh and Blood - Read: John 6:52-59**

#### **Group Questions:**

- **Teaching Note:** *If you have time or the need you might explain that in the Jewish vernacular, to eat the flesh of someone was a metaphor connected with the idea of taking in someone else's strength, power, and even identity (it could be used of a vanquished foe but Jesus uses it in a similar but slightly different way). For Jesus to say that Jews needed his strength and power to have a relationship with God would have been highly controversial and even outright offensive.*
- *To drink the blood of someone was another metaphor that referred to benefiting from the sacrifice or death of someone else for your sake.*
- *(See 2 Samuel 23:17; 1 Chronicles 11:19; Ezekiel 39:18).*
- *The original audience listening to Jesus would not have understood the allusions to the Lord's Supper that would come later but the audience for John's Gospel would no doubt have understood the foreshadowing in Jesus' words. Communion then, is a reminder of our need to rely on and benefit from Jesus' sacrifice*
- What is the big difference between manna and the bread of life?

### **A Hard Teaching - Read: John 6:60-69**

#### **Group Questions:**

- Why do you think that this idea of relying solely on the life of Christ to know the Father was so hard in the minds of those hearing Jesus?
- What did Peter mean by saying that Jesus had the words of the life of the age to come (eternal life)?

#### **Final Thought:**

- What does it mean for us today to rely solely on the life of Christ for both entering into the salvation of the life of the age to come and abiding in that life?



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