



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Gives Us Life

SCRIPTURE: John 6

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

There we were—out of water and feeling famished. We were above the tree line and could see the summit of Pikes Peak. All we could talk about was guzzling gallons of water and eating a dozen of the doughnuts they sell at the Summit House.

When we reached the top of Pikes Peak, we did get bottles of water and a dozen doughnuts. I wish I could say they were as satisfying as we had envisioned, but they were not. In fact, they made the car trip down the mountain very uncomfortable. My hunger wasn't satisfied. Instead, I felt sick.

Read John 6:10–14, 25–35. John 6 tells us that Jesus has come to satisfy hunger—the deepest pangs of hunger within us all. Those pangs that go beyond something that bread can satisfy—emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual pangs.

What's more, Jesus also tells the crowd they are looking in the wrong places to satisfy their hunger—much like eating doughnuts after climbing a 14,000+ foot mountain. It's something we all do. In verse 27, Jesus calls this “food that spoils” (NIV).

What are your deepest places of hunger, desire, or need? When have you tried to satisfy that hunger or desire by looking in the wrong places?

Jesus is health. He is life. He is the very bread of life.

—Jeff Stone

Associate Pastor and Professional Counselor

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The crowd was composed of people who were following Jesus around because of His signs—especially healing of the sick. Based on their dialogue with Jesus, the crowd was predominantly or entirely Jewish. They are distinct from Jesus' disciples, who were His students and traveling companions.

WHAT?

After miraculously feeding a large crowd, Jesus is followed to Capernaum by people expecting Him to provide more manna—bread from heaven—as a new Moses. Jesus explains that He Himself is the living bread who gives life to the world. Those who believe will live forever.

WHERE?

Jesus fed the crowd somewhere in the mountainous area known today as the Golan Heights, along the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus then crossed to Capernaum, which is on the northwestern part of the Sea of Galilee.

WHEN?

According to John 6:4, this story takes place near the time of the Jewish Passover Feast, when the people remembered how God delivered their ancestors from Egypt. This may have resulted in a heightened expectation among the crowd for God to provide a new deliverer.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God provided manna in the wilderness to meet the Israelites' immediate physical needs. Yet they eventually died. Jesus, the bread of life, is a greater provision. He defeated death on the cross and will raise His people to imperishable life on the last day.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Bread Making

SUPPLIES: modeling dough, rolling pins (several)

Before the activity begins, set out modeling dough and rolling pins on a table.
Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! While we're getting ready to start, you can play with this modeling dough to create pretend bread. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Encourage kids to begin kneading their modeling dough. Comment to kids that this reminds you of how real dough for bread is made. Demonstrate how to shape the dough into a loaf of bread and challenge kids to also create loaves of bread. Tell kids they will be hearing a lot about bread today!



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, thank You for being with us today. Please lead us to better understand how You love us and give us life! Help us hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it's God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 357-363

Jesus Feeds Thousands

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

— John 8:12

Jesus said He is the Light of the World. He brings light into our lives when He forgives our sins and makes us new. Sin is anything we do that is not what God wants. Jesus gives us life and helps us not sin.