



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

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Food Matching Sheet (2 copies), I Am the Bread of Life Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Food Matching

Set-up: Print two copies of the Food Matching Sheet. Cut apart the pictures, mix them up, and place them face down on the table.

Play: Tell kids to take turns flipping over two pictures at a time. If a kid turns over two pictures that match, she can keep the match and the next kid takes a turn.

If the pictures do not match, she can turn them back over and another kid can try. Continue until all the matches have been found. While they're playing and matching food pictures, talk with kids about their favorite kind of bread or other baked items.



Play Station: I Am the Bread of Life Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the I Am the Bread of Life Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw their favorite food.



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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 is 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

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- Why do you think Jesus refers to Himself as the *Light of the World*?
- How can we have the light of Jesus in us?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kind of food did the boy offer to share with Jesus and the hungry people? (*five small loaves of bread and two fish*)
- What kind of bread had God given His people, the Israelites, many years before today's part of God's big story? (*manna*)
- The people following Jesus thought they just wanted more food. What did they really need? (*Jesus*)
- What do you think it would have been like to be a person in the crowd who was following Jesus?
- What makes Jesus better than bread or manna?
- How does Jesus give us life?

When Jesus said He is the bread of life, He wanted everyone to know that He is the One who gives life to the whole world. He is greater and better than any bread or other kind of food because He came to beat death and provide a way for us to have life! Let's talk to God now in prayer!



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Bread & Fish

SUPPLIES: sheet of construction paper, basket, 2 fish & 5 loaves per kid



Give each kid a basket, 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread to color. Then have them glue the fish and bread to their sheet of construction paper and glue the basket on top. Encourage the kids to take their pictures home as a reminder that as the “bread of life,” Jesus gives us life.