



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

Curiosity Activity: Bread Hunt

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bread Sheet (3 copies)

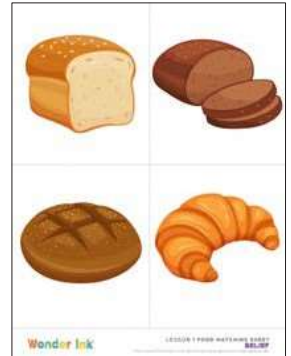
Before the activity begins, print three copies of the Bread Sheet and cut apart the pictures. Hide the bread pictures around the room.

Today we're starting an exciting new series called the I AMs of Jesus. Jesus described Himself in many ways to help us know and understand Him better. To help us learn about today's "I am" statement, we're going on a bread hunt!

There seems to be a lot of bread spread around the room. Can you help me find the bread? After you find some bread, bring it back to the middle of the room.

If you have 12 or more kids, tell kids to only find one piece of bread so other kids can have the opportunity to find bread as well. **Ready, set, go!** Give kids time to locate all the pieces of bread around the room. Encourage kids to return to the middle of the room and have a seat.

Wow! We found all the bread! I wonder what today's "I am" statement will be. Any ideas? Allow kids to respond. **Today we're going to learn about what Jesus meant when He said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). This doesn't mean that Jesus was a piece of bread like what we just found. Instead, it means that JESUS GIVES US LIFE.**



Leader Tip: If you use real dinner rolls instead of paper, just remember where you hide all of them so they don't get moldy if not found! Be aware of any allergies.



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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

Our Word of Wonder today describes Jesus in another way. We've been learning that Jesus is the bread of life and that He gives us life. The Bible also tells us that Jesus is the Light of the World. Let's say our Word of Wonder together.

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

Game: Bread Toss

SUPPLIES: paper plates (3), permanent marker (prep only), sandwich bread (3 slices)

Before the activity begins, use a permanent marker to write a number on each paper plate: 300, 200, and 100. Place the plates in a triangle shape a few feet away from where the kids will line up.

Direct kids to line up and give the first kid in line the three pieces of bread. **What have we learned today?** Allow kids to respond. Guide them toward recalling that Jesus is the bread of life. **Today we have talked a lot about bread. Jesus said He is the bread of life, and we know that Jesus gives us life because He died on the cross for our sins. Because Jesus rose from the dead three days later, He defeated death. He gives us life—better than any piece of bread or manna ever could!**

Let's play a game. You will have three pieces of bread that you can toss and try to land on these paper plates. Each plate is worth points. Let's see how many points you can earn!

Guide kids to take turns tossing the three slices of bread onto the paper plates. Total their points and give them a high-five or fist bump as they give the bread to the next person in line. Continue until all kids have had a chance to play.