

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

August 4, 2024

Bread: Life for the World

- 15 Minutes **Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other...**
What is a staple food in your family?
Share a pleasant memory of food.
- Opening Prayer O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen (ELW p44)
- 45 Minutes **Discussion Questions:**
Read again John 6: 24-35
What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
How does this event in the life of Jesus show the power of story?
Why was the story of manna in the wilderness a foundational story in the story of the crowds following Jesus in this part of the gospel?
How does Jesus use this foundational story to reveal his own identity as the Son of Man on whom God has set God's seal?
Explore Jesus' revealing statement: I am the bread of life
 How is Jesus taking on the symbol of manna
 Why is that important in a life of faith?
Explore the connection from last week's story of 5 loaves of bread feeding 5k+ people (6: 1-21) and today's gospel.
 How is Jesus *life for the world*?
 Metaphorically, in what ways does Jesus satisfy hunger and thirst?
 Practically, how does Jesus satisfy hunger and thirst?
What is the role of faith in this gospel?
How is faith strengthened today?
- Read again Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15
What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
How does this story compare to last week's gospel story (John 6:1-21)?
What does this story, placed alongside the gospel, teach us about God?
- Read again Ephesians 4: 1-16
What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
How has God equipped you for the work of ministry (v12)?
- 20 Minutes **Prayer Requests and Prayer**
- 10 Minutes **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session:** Conversation about details for the next session...place, day, time, and volunteer Host. Remember...bring a Bible, watch the Sunday worship and sermon in preparation for the group session.

Maximum amount of time...90 minutes. Time used for each component is flexible depending on the agreed upon needs of the group for that session.