

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Know what changes will take place in your life when you make Jesus your Bread of Life.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: When Jesus fed the 5000 with five barley loaves and two small fish, they wanted to make Him king to provide food for their bodies. Jesus told them that His Father had given their fathers manna in the wilderness to satisfy their physical need, but now He sent Him to be their true Bread. He would satisfy their spiritual need and give them everlasting life. Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6: 35).

How did Jesus use His miracle of feeding 5000 with a lad's lunch in witnessing? 6:26-29

Men were laboring to get Jesus to make more bread for them to eat. Jesus told them not to labor for the bread that gives life for a short while, but for the bread that produces eternal life. He would give them that bread. They wanted to know what kind of work God wanted them to do to get this bread. Jesus told them the "work" that God demanded was to "believe" the One He had sent. God does not demand any work from sinners to receive eternal life, but only to believe His Son. To witness like Jesus, ask God to train you to use the physical world around you to teach the spiritual.

What effect did Jesus' miracle of walking on water have on the Twelve? 6:19-21; cf Mt 14:25-33

The twelve disciples had rowed their boat about three miles in the darkness of night over a turbulent sea. Someone noticed something coming toward them. Maybe they thought it was a ghost and they cried out in fear. Jesus said, "It is I, be not afraid." Peter's fear turned to faith and he asked if he could come to Him on the water. Jesus told him to come. With no hesitation, he got out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But when he saw a big wave coming toward him, his faith failed and he began to sink into the water. He cried out, "Lord, save me," and He did. Together they walked to the boat where the disciples worshipped Him, saying, "Of a truth, you are the Son of God." This experience helped them to stay with Jesus when many of His disciples left Him (6:68-69). Have you had some life changing experiences with Jesus that will keep you from leaving Him?

How does the Father draw sinners to His Son? 6:44-45

It is not a sovereign decision that the Father makes to draw some sinners and not others. The Father gives every person an opportunity to be drawn to His Son. He does it by teaching all people either by His creation, or by their conscience or by the truth of Scripture and for some by all three ways (Rom 1:18-20; 2:14-15; 2 Tim 3:16). All unbelievers hear the Father's teaching, so they are without excuse, but only those who learn are those that receive His message and they are drawn to Jesus (Jam 1:22).

How are sinners to eat Jesus' body and drink His blood? 6:54, 63; cf 6:40, 47

At first, Jesus spoke to the people in literal language with natural meanings. He told them that they needed to believe the Father sent Him to give them eternal life. When they rejected His clear message, He spoke to them in figurative language with spiritual meanings. He told them that they must eat His body and drink His blood. That meant they were to believe He was sent by the Father and receive Him as their Savior. They were to receive Him for spiritual life as they would receive food for physical life.

How was Jesus able to know that Judas would betray Him? 6:70-71; cf 17:12

Jesus is the Son of God and has all the attributes of His Father. Both of them are omniscient; they knew all things before anything was created. They knew the decisions that every person would make before they were created whether they were angels or people. On the basis of their foreknowledge of each person's decisions, they were put into the sovereign plan of God. They knew that Judas would appear to be a true follower of Jesus, but would betray Him in the end. Jesus chose him to fulfill the plan of God, fully knowing that he would betray Him.