

"Bread of Life"

1. Read John's narrative about the feeding of the five-thousand, in John 6:1–15. Later Jesus will contrast what he has to offer with the manna that fed the Israelites in the wilderness. As a group, list similarities and differences between the feeding of the five-thousand and the manna in the wilderness. If you need to review the Bible's account of the manna, you can scan Exodus 16.

Which of the similarities and differences do you think point to deeper truths about Jesus?

2. "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill" (6:26). Elaborate on what you think is involved with each of the two contrasted motives.

After Jesus fed the people, they intended to "*make him king by force*" — paradoxically. For what purposes do you think they wanted to *use* Jesus? For what purposes might some misuse Jesus today? To which misuses are you most susceptible?

3. "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent" (6:29). To what extent did the people's intent to make Jesus king look like faith? Tell why you believe it fell short of true faith in Jesus. In light of this study, what challenges do you face in truly trusting Jesus?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?