

Like with the skeptics in Jesus' day, there is a veil clouding the minds of those who harden their hearts towards truth. However, there is a way the veil can be removed. As we respond to the Father's provision—partake in the true Bread sent from heaven—we become a part of Christ Himself. The Bible says: "This veil can be removed" but it is removed "only by believing in Christ...whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away" (see 2 Corinthians 3:14-16). We can know the truth that sets us free and we don't have to die of spiritual starvation.



Text: John 6: 22-42

1. Jesus offers you _____.
2. Jesus alone can _____ the hunger of your _____.
3. Jesus offers you what you cannot earn for yourself—
_____.

PROMISE

Jesus reveals he is the _____ of _____ life
and in him we find spiritual _____.

One Year Bible Reading

June 7: 1 Kings 2:1-3:2, Acts 5:1-42, Psalm 125:1-5, Proverbs 16:25

June 8: 1 Kings 3:3-4:34, Acts 6:1-15, Psalm 126:1-6, Proverbs 16:26-27

June 9: 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, Acts 7:1-29, Psalm 127:1-5, Proverbs 16:28-30

June 10: Kings 7:1-51, Acts 7:30-50, Psalm 128:1-6, Proverbs 16:31-33

June 11: 1 Kings 8:1-66, Acts 7:51-8:13, Psalm 129:1-8, Proverbs 17:1

June 12: 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 130:1-8, Proverbs 17:2-3

June 13: 1 Kings 11:1-12:19, Acts 9:1-25, Psalm 131:1-3, Proverbs 17:4-5

June 6 & 7, 2015

PROMISES

Life Group Lesson • Week of June 7

Most of us in America know what it is like to feel a hunger pain. But not many of us know what it is like to be dying of starvation. A study from 2007 shows there are some 470 million persons who die each year of starvation—mostly children. And more recently, the United Nations reported in 2014 that 21,000 individuals die *daily* from starvation. In other words, in 7 days – one week’s time – starvation will kill 155,000 men, women, children, and babies. This number, by the way, is equivalent to the entire population of Catawba County.

As horrific as this is, let’s move from the physical to the spiritual for a moment, and see the number of starving *souls* in the world today. There are approximately 2.2 billion persons who claim Christianity as their religion—this includes Roman Catholic, protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Mormon—which means more than 4.8 billion people in the world claim absolutely no connection with Christianity and are dying of spiritual starvation. This number could be even higher, considering that many people may claim Christianity nominally, but have no *personal* relationship with Christ. Many don’t know they are wasting away, still others refuse to be filled—but true Bread has come from above—no one has to starve spiritually.

Read John 6:22-42

Huge crowds followed Jesus wherever He went, “because they saw His miraculous signs as He healed the sick” (John 6:2). Jesus began changing the landscape as He taught the people who gathered literally in droves to see Him. He healed “every kind of disease and illness” (Matthew 9:35), and taught as One having real authority (Matthew 7:29). In this passage, the crowds stayed so late into the afternoon that Jesus feeds them with 5 loaves of barley and 2 fish, revealing He *is* the Bread of life.

1. “When the people saw Him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, ‘Surely, He is the Prophet we have been expecting!’” According to **Deuteronomy 18:15**, why were the people expecting a “Prophet?” According to Deuteronomy 18:15 this “Prophet” will be like who?

The following day, the multitude searched for Jesus and His disciples—not because they understood the miracle, but simply because He fed them.

2. Why did they demand a miraculous sign, according to John 6:30?

To whom did they compare Jesus according to v31?

How did Jesus immediately correct their thinking about where manna in the wilderness came from? (see v32a)

Just as manna came from God alone, we must remember our day-to-day needs are also met by the Lord alone. Man attempts to take credit for so much—and we are so quick to give credit to man—when God alone is Jehovah-Jireh (or Yahweh-Yireh, see Genesis 22:14). It’s interesting that Jesus wasted no time in correcting their wrong thinking, “I tell you the truth, Moses didn’t give you bread from heaven. My Father did.” In other words, let’s get the facts straight! God alone provides for our every need, not man.

3. Think of a time the Lord prompted you to correct something false that was being communicated. Did you respond immediately as Jesus did?

Before we can speak the truth, we must know the truth. Why is being grounded in God’s Word so important for followers of Christ?

How valuable is knowing and communicating truth, according to John 8:32?

In an age when so many people don’t have a clue about who Christ is, we—as ambassadors of the Gospel Message in a broken world—must be ready to speak the truth about Jesus. He *is* God’s Christ (Colossians 1:15), appointed from before the beginning of time to be our ransom (1 Peter 1:20). He never sinned so He is the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 9:14). There is “no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). And one day “we must all stand before Christ to be judged” (2 Corinthians 5:10a). We live in a world where people define Christ according to their own (wrong) thinking. We must know and speak the truth in love—as one beggar showing another beggar where to find the Bread of Life.

4. Jesus declares: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But you haven’t believed in me even though you have seen me” (John 6:35-36). As you consider the spiritual landscape of our culture and our world, why do you think so many people refuse to believe in the Lord Jesus?

Perhaps there was a time *you* were the skeptic. What brought you to a place of acceptance and belief?

The people wanted to “perform God’s works too.” But Jesus said the only work God wants from you is to “believe in the One He has sent” (John 6:29). What is easy about believing in Jesus—what is hard about believing in Jesus?