

“Then Jesus declared,
I am the bread of life.

He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:35

Break the Ice

Have you ever eaten so much food that you were beyond full but it was so good you kept eating? Tell me about it.

Was there ever a time that you were so hungry but nothing seemed to fill you up? Tell me about it.

Background: The Passover Feast is near and Jesus is traveling with his disciples. He has just miraculously fed 5,000 men—plus women and children (John 6:1-15). The crowd Jesus fed meets up with Jesus and his disciples in Capernaum. They ask Jesus how he got to Capernaum but they do not like the answer Jesus is about to give them.

Passage for Study: John 6:25-35

Focus Verse: John 6:35

Discuss the following questions:

- 6:25 Who is present in this passage? What is the question they asked Jesus?
- 6:26-27 What was Jesus' response to their question? (Look at the feeding of the 5,000 in John 6:1-15)
- 6:26 What point is Jesus making in the following statement "...not because you saw miraculous signs, but you ate the loaves and had your fill."?
- 6:27 What does Jesus mean when he says, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."?
According to this passage, what are the two types of food? Who gives the food that endures to eternal life?
- 6:28 What is the crowds' question to Jesus? What conclusions can you make about the heart of the crowd from this question?
- 6:29 What was Jesus' response? Looking at what you have learned so far, who is the one God has sent?
- 6:30-31 What did the crowd ask next?
- 6:30 Looking at verse 26 and 30, what is the attitude of the crowd toward Jesus? Has the crowds attitude changed toward Jesus? Are they demonstrating faith or belief in Jesus?
- 6:31 Looking at verse 27 and 31, what type of food is the crowd talking about in verse 31?
- 6:32-33 What is Jesus' response?

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- 6:32 According to Jesus’ response in verse 32, who does the crowd say is the “He” who gave manna from heaven in verse 31? Who does Jesus say gives us the true bread from heaven? Why did Jesus use the word truth in this verse?
- 6:33 According to this verse, Who is the bread of God? What does Jesus mean when he says, “...he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world? According to what you have read so far, what are some observations you can make about the food that endures to eternal life?
- 6:34 What was the crowd’s response to Jesus? According to their response, what conclusion can you make about the people’s question to Jesus?
- 6:35 What is Jesus’ response to the crowd’s question? Who does Jesus say is the bread of life? What happens when one comes to the bread of life? Looking at the whole passage you have read, what are some characteristics of Jesus? (Hint: look at all the descriptions about the bread) Why does Jesus use bread in this passage to describe himself?

Application

Are you working for the spoiled food or the eternal food?

Is your heart like the crowd or are you trusting and believing in Jesus?

What in your life do you need to let go of in your pursuit of the bread of life?

What in your life are you devouring and munching on? Is it Jesus or something else?

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
‘I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the
light of life.’”

John 8:12

Break the Ice

Were you ever afraid
of the dark?

Describe a
particularly scary
time.

Background: The Jews were God’s chosen people. He selected them to be the people He would use to share His love to the people of the whole world. He even promised that the one who would save the world from their sins, the Messiah, Jesus, would come from the Jews.

The Jews were stubborn people and, even though Jesus offered the Gospel to them first, most of them rejected him. The Pharisees and Sadducees were the religious teachers of the Jews who continually challenged Jesus and His teachings. They eventually planned and brought about Jesus’ execution.

Jesus came to earth in human form to be a living example of how to live a life pleasing to God. He also came to die on the cross for us. By dying on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty that we all deserve because we have sinned.

Passage for Study: John 8:12-30

Focus Verse: John 8:12

Discuss the following questions:

Where does Jesus’ authority come from?

According to Jesus, when will the Jews truly know Jesus is who He claims to be?

What does Jesus mean in vs. 21 that He’s going where those people will not be able to find him?

What is Jesus meaning in vs. 28 when he says they’ll know after he’s “lifted up?”

How can we follow Christ’s example of being a light in the darkness?

According to vs. 29, God the Father didn’t leave Jesus alone. Therefore, He will not leave us alone. What is going on in your life right now that you need God to be there for you?

“Therefore Jesus said again, ‘I tell you the truth,
I am the gate for the sheep.’”

John 10:7

Break the Ice

Play a game.

Setting: small room area

Equipment: blind folds and soft objects

Set Up: Divide the group in two smaller groups. In the first group select a leader and have the others blind folded.

Place objects around the room.

Objective: The blind folded team must move around the room and step through a designated exit with only the leader’s voice directing them. The second team will try to confuse the blind folded team.

Background: In chapter 9 Jesus had healed a blind man on the Sabbath. According to Jewish laws no one could work on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were trying to disprove Jesus’ works as the Messiah (9:13-32).

Passage for Study: John 9 & 10

Focus Verse: John 10:7, Jesus is addressing the accusation (9:16) of the Pharisees that he is not the Messiah.

Discuss the following questions:

Who is the gate? What is the significance of the gate? What happens to those who enter the gate? What are the benefits of going through the gate?

Who are the characters in this passage? Describe the relationship of the characters in relationship to the gate. Discuss the blind man’s relationship to the gate in verse 9:11; in verse 9:30 and in verse 9:37 & 38. Which character do you identify yourself with? Why? Where are you in relationship to the gate?

According to 9:40, who was Jesus talking to in 10:1-7? Who does Jesus refer to as the thieves and robbers? Why does Jesus contrast the thieves and robbers to the gate?

Student Leader Tip

Keep this in mind as you prepare for your Life Group:

Good interpretation is based on careful observation of a passage. Carefully identifying who the characters are in this passage will shed much light on the meaning of Jesus’ words, “I am the gate.”

“I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11

Break the Ice

What relationship in our culture would signify commitment to you?

Could you remain committed to a friend who did you wrong? Why or why not?

What does abandonment feel like in your experience?

Background: The Pharisees were a religious group who maintained a hierarchical relationship with those who were under their leadership (the Jews). Jesus maintained an intimate relationship with those under His authority (the disciples). The Pharisees were constantly questioning Jesus’ authority (example John 9:40 & 41) and this is why Jesus begins to explain their blindness to them.

Passage for Study: John 10:11-15

Focus Verse: John 10:11

Discuss the following questions:

Who was Jesus talking to?

Who is the wolf representative of? Who do the sheep represent? Who does the hired hand represent? In what way is it noteworthy for the shepherd to lay down His life?

What is the significance of Jesus saying, “I am the good shepherd?” How does 10:12 help to us to unpack the idea of a good shepherd?

Application

What are the benefits of allowing Jesus to be our Shepherd? Which characteristics of Jesus speak to you most? In what way? How important is it that you remain committed to the true shepherd (Jesus Christ)?

Student Leader Tip

Keep this in mind as you prepare for your Life Group:

Ever been in one of those small groups when discussion is a struggle, you sense people are talking on the surface of an issue, or someone in the group misses the point. Try asking a secondary questions. Some examples of these types of questions are:

- *Because....?*
- *Can you tell us more about that?*
- *What leads you to that conclusion?*
- *What does the text say about that?*

Jesus said to her, ***“I am the resurrection and the life.*** He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26

Break the Ice

How do you feel about the concept of death?

Have you had anyone close to you die? How did you feel about their death?

What do you think will happen to you when you die?

Background: It is important for us to note that unlike many encounters people have with Jesus, this was not His only interaction with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. To bring clarity to who was involved, John notes in verse 2 that this was the same Mary “who poured perfume” on Jesus’ feet and “wiped his feet with her hair” (see Luke 7:36-50). It is also important to note Lazarus is referred to as “the one you (Jesus) loves.”

LOVE: there are many different words in the original language of the Bible for our word ‘love’. This word used in this case is *phileo*. It is a term used concerning love between family and close friends. This word shows that Jesus cared for Lazarus in a personal fashion. Given this, we would think Jesus would have immediately gone to Lazarus (something we would normally do in such a situation), but his actions showed even His friendships and emotions did not dictate what He would and would not do; He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Note Jesus not only explains He brings life through the resurrection but that He IS the resurrection and the life. Though Martha was expecting for Lazarus to rise from the dead “at the last day” (vs. 24), Jesus explains to her at that point that He is the **Giver and Restorer** of life.

Passage for Study: John 11:25-39

Focus Verse: John 11:25-26

Observation

Who are the characters involved?

How did Jesus find out Lazarus was sick?

What was Jesus' reaction to the news?

How long did Jesus wait before he decided to go to where Lazarus was?

How did Jesus find out Lazarus was dead?

What was Martha's response to Jesus' statement of being the “resurrection and the life”?

How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus came?

Interpretation

Why do you think Mary and Martha sent for Jesus?

What was the importance of Jesus' statement in verse 4, “The sickness will not end in death.”? How do you think Jesus knew Lazarus was dead?

Contrast Martha's statement in verse 39 with her statement in verse 27. How do our actions demonstrate a contradiction to the things we say we believe about God?

Why do the people question Jesus' ability in verse 37? Do we do this in our own lives?

Application

How can we acknowledge Jesus as the resurrection and the life?

How can we respond in the future when God does not do things in our timing?

What can we do to have the demonstration of our actions agree with the verbal statements of our belief in Jesus?

“Jesus answered,
I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew
me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do
know him and have seen him.”

John 14:5-7

Break the Ice

Have you ever tried to get somewhere but did not know where you were going? Tell us about it.

Passage for Study: John 14:5-7

Focus Verse: John 14:6

Context Timeline:

- Jesus tells the disciples he is leaving and they cannot go with him 13:31-33
- Jesus admonishes the disciples to love one another 13:34-35
- Peter asks Jesus where he is going 13:36a
- Jesus replies that where he is going Peter cannot come now but will be able to come later (Note: Jesus does not really answer Peter's question) 13:36b
- Peter asks why he cannot follow and says he will follow Jesus even unto death 13:37
- Jesus questions Peter 'unto death' statement and predicts Peter's denial 13:38
- Jesus tells the disciples not to worry that he is leaving because he is going to prepare a place for them and then he will come back to get them 14:1-3
- Jesus tells the disciples that they know the way to the place he is going 14:4
- Thomas asks Jesus how they could know the way if they don't know where he is going 14:5
- Jesus says he is the way 14:6

Who is mentioned in the passage?

In what setting is this conversation taking place?

What is Jesus claiming to be?

Why did Thomas ask Jesus this question?

What is Jesus trying to communicate?

Jesus answered Thomas' question by saying that he was the way. Why did he add the truth and the life?

What is the significance of Jesus being the truth and the life?

Do I see Jesus as the only way?

Why is it important that we see Jesus as the only way?

How do I get to the Father?

*"I am the true vine,
and my Father is the gardener."*

John 15:1

Break the Ice

If you were taking a class how well do you think you would do without the teacher and why?

If you were a child how far do you think you would make it and what would your quality of life be without parents or family and why?

Name the 5 most important things in your life from first to last.

Background: Jesus told Peter and the others disciples He was leaving them and going to a place they could not go to right now (13:36). So, now Jesus is imparting comfort into the disciples to distill their fears of abandonment and broken expectations of following a king and sharing in the king's rule (14:1, 3-4, 12-14). Jesus explains the comfort and excitement in Him leaving so He can be the center of every believer's life through the deposit of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7). But a warning goes out to the disciples as well. If they wander away from His teachings, and allow Christ to falter from the center of their lives, they can bear no fruit (John 15:4). Jesus is setting a foundation of security so that the disciples truly understand He is the only way to God the only path to success for the Kingdom and as a Christian.

Passage for Study: John 15:1-8

Focus Verse: John 15:1a

Discuss the following questions:

What object does Jesus reference Himself as? Why did Jesus use a vine as an analogy? Why does a branch need a vine?

What word/s are repeated in this passage? Why would Jesus feel a need to repeat them?

Why did Jesus emphasize the fact that He is not just a vine, but the "true" vine?

Application

What would it look like to have Jesus at the center of your life?

What can you do right now to start allowing Jesus to become the center of your life?

Name 3 things you can do this week that will allow you to spend more time with Jesus.

Student Leader Tip

Keep this in mind as you prepare for your Life Group:

“But what about you?” he asked.
“*Who do you say I am?*”

Matthew 16:15

Break the Ice

What would you like people to know about you?

What’s it like to be misrepresented or misunderstood?

Talk about a time when you misunderstood someone.

Have you ever experienced a time when your first impression of a person was inaccurate? What happened?

Background:

Blessed: to bestow goodness and favor.

Christ: the New Testament designation of Old Testament “Messiah”. In this verse “Christ” is specifically refereeing to Jesus’ role as Mediator, the agent of reconciliation between God and humankind.

Son of God: This confession is emphasizing God’s giving of Jesus and the redemptive significance of Jesus sufferings.

Passage for Study: Matthew 16:13-17

Focus Verse: Matthew 16:15

Discuss the following questions:

Identify the questions Jesus asks in this passage. How are the questions different? How are the answers to the questions different? How does Jesus respond to each answer? What is the significance of Jesus response?

According to 16:17, where did Peter’s answer come from? Why is this important to observe? How does this observation affect the way we interact with the people around us in relationship to knowing Jesus?

Take some time this week to get on campus. Ask students/faculty the question “Who is Jesus?” What is the source of their answers?

How would you answer Jesus question?

Student Leader Tip

Keep this in mind as you prepare for your Life Group:

This is the introductory study to our Fall series. We will spend the rest of the semester exploring the “I am” statements of Jesus. Our goal is to find out what Jesus said about himself and why that matters to us.

Sometimes students ask questions we cannot answer. Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know.” And sometimes students aske questions unrelated to the study. A one on one can be a great place to search out an answer or talk about those unrelated questions.