

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Bread of Life

John 6:35

APPLY // 1 KINGS 19

Main Idea: The Lord's restoring grace overcomes our fears and failures.

1. From I Kings 18 to 19, Elijah goes from a mountain top experience (literally!) to a valley. What causes Elijah to sink so low? What does he seem to forget?
2. How can you relate to Elijah?
3. Discuss how the Lord responds to Elijah. What surprises you about this response?
4. What do the strong wind, earthquake, fire and whisper teach us about God?
5. Do you ever feel like you're the only one striving to be faithful? How do God's word in 18:18 correct and comfort us?
6. Discuss how God's response to Elijah prepares us for God's response to us by sending Jesus.

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // JOHN 6

Main Idea: Jesus is the bread of life—only in him are we truly satisfied.

Note on Advent:

Advent, which is derived from the Latin word "adventus," means coming. For the Christian Church, Advent is the season marked by waiting and preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth in history (his first coming) and the anticipation of Christ's triumphant return (his second coming). This is the time of year set aside to think about the coming of God's Son to earth. As we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward, anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

1. Read John 6:22-40.
2. In verse 25, what does Jesus mean when he says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me...because you ate your fill of loaves." What is Jesus exposing about the heart of those in the crowd? hearts? How do these people view Jesus?
3. How do the people respond in verse 28? What does their response reveal about their ideas about how they can please God?
4. How does Jesus answer in verse 29? How does Jesus' answer point to the good news of the gospel?
5. In verse 30, the people ask for a sign. What is ironic about the fact that they wanted to know what signs Jesus did that should compel them to believe (...he just fed thousands out of almost nothing)? What does this tell us about signs alone?
6. In verses 32-33, Jesus compares the bread Moses gave (through God) and the true bread. What difference is Jesus trying to get the people to see?
7. What does Jesus mean when he says that he is "the bread of life".
8. What does Jesus mean when he says "whoever comes to me...whoever believes..."? What's the significance that "comes" and "believes" are *present tense* verbs?
9. What does it mean that those who go to Him do not hunger or thirst?
10. How does Jesus being the bread of life give us reason to rejoice in remembering his first Advent and in anticipation of his second Advent?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: In all your joys and sorrows, how might you look to Jesus to satisfy you this holiday season?