

Study Guide: “The Bread of Life”

Carter Sanger, Feb 2009

Read John 6:1-15, then discuss the following.

Introduction

- Jesus offers us the Bread of Life and explains that this bread will bring eternal life. What do you think it means to eat this bread? Do you think the people who believe they are eating the Bread of Life are actually experiencing its benefits?

Eating for Liberation

In the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry, Israel was ruled by the Romans and experienced limited religious freedoms, at times harsh treatment, and heavy taxation.

- How do you think their circumstances affected the way they saw Jesus miracles. Who were they hoping Jesus to be? Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and 2 Samuel 7:12-16 for some background to their expectations.
- Do you see parallels today to our society’s longing for a leader?
- Do you see parallels today to the way people look to Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus would not allow them to make him king? (Hint: what does this assume to be the source of the problem?)

Eating for our fill of the Loaves

Read John 6:25-39.

Jesus healed many people and helped many who were hurting.

- In verse 26, why does Jesus say that people were coming to him? Why does he seem to rebuke them for it?
- If you focus on this temporal life, what do your goals and priorities tend to be? How might your goals and priorities differ if your focus was on eternal life?
- How does this impact that way we might look at the “Bread of Life” that Jesus offers?

Eating for Life

Read John 6:30-35.

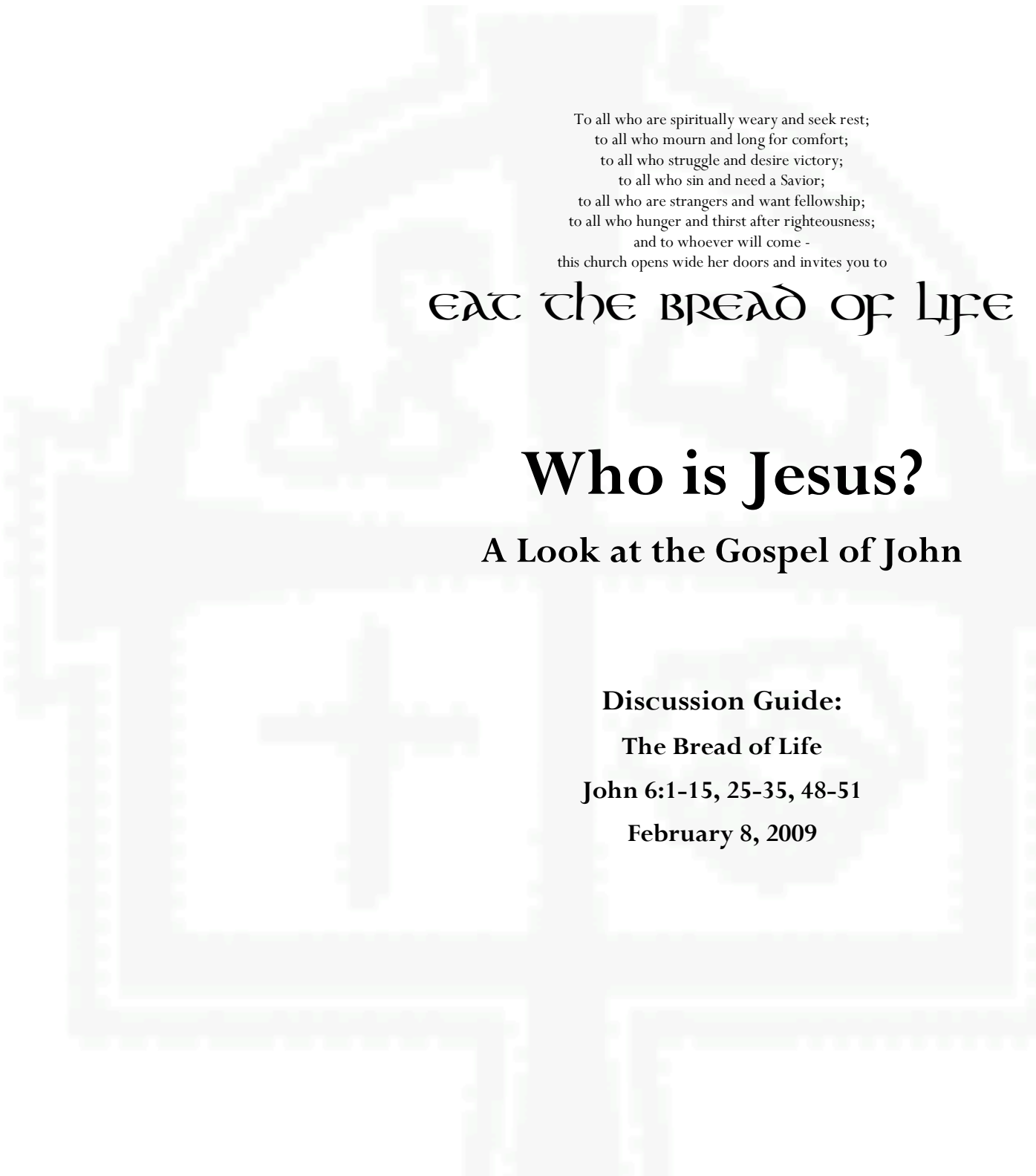
So far the reasons for seeking Jesus require Jesus to be a powerful leader or a compassionate and capable man. But Jesus rebukes both of these views.

- Why do the Jews ask Jesus for a sign in verse 30?
- What is the sign that Jesus offers them? Read verses 51-52 for a clue.
- In verse 4, John mentions that it was the time of the Passover. How does this help us understand Jesus sign?
- How does this understanding of the “Bread of Life” bring us eternal life? What does it mean to have eternal life? Why does this overshadow the benefit of liberation from our oppressors and having our “fill of the loaves”?

Wrap-up

Paul says that whenever we eat the “Bread of Life”, we are proclaiming the death of Jesus.

- What does that say about the magnitude of the problem that Jesus came to fix?
- If we are taking the “Bread of Life” into us, why does that tell us about the source of the problem?
- Can you see why this view of the Bread of Life turns people away from Jesus? Does it turn you away?



To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whoever will come -
this church opens wide her doors and invites you to

EAT THE BREAD OF LIFE

Who is Jesus?

A Look at the Gospel of John

Discussion Guide:

The Bread of Life

John 6:1-15, 25-35, 48-51

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