



## HomeGroup **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week 2: Jan 9-15

**PICK 2-4 QUESTIONS BELOW FOR YOUR DISCUSSION. ALSO, WE'VE ADDED IN AN ADDITIONAL SECTION THIS WEEK FOR YOU TO CONSIDER USING. FEEL FREE TO GIVE US FEEDBACK ON WHETHER YOU'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF THIS KIND OF "GOING DEEPER" IDEAS IN FUTURE WEEKS.**

Food is fuel. It supplies calories to our bodies. It sparks conversation around a table. It even satisfies our cravings...for a while. Ever notice how long it can take to prepare a meal, only to see it devoured in minutes? And then it's time to do it all over again? In contrast, there is one food—one bread, to be precise—that keeps giving and never runs out. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Main Texts: John 6:22-59; Exodus 16

### CONNECT

1. When you're hungry (or even "hangry"), what's your ideal food or snack?
2. What did you find most significant in this week's sermon?

### LEARN

3. Read John 6, especially verses 22-59. How would you summarize what Jesus meant when he declared, "I am the bread of life" in verses 35 and 48? As much as possible, answer by using the surrounding verses.

Pastor Tom begins the sermon by explaining how Jesus is speaking metaphorically while his audience takes Him literally. Jesus is using an idea or concept from the physical world to describe who He is spiritually. Bread gives life (sustains us) temporarily in a physical sense but Jesus gives eternal life.

4. "Grumbling" plays a role in verses 41-43. "Grumbling" is also a big part of Israel's earlier days, as God's people grumbled about their situation (see Exodus 16:2). What could we say about God's character based on how He responds to this grumbling, both in Exodus 16 and in John 6?

This isn't an emphasis of the sermon but is in the passage. This question is meant to examine more closely one of the aspects of how Jesus is the Bread of Life. That is, Jesus is a gracious provider. He's gracious in that He gives good gifts in spite of the grumbling of His people. He's the provider for physical needs, but just as much of our even greater spiritual/eternal need.

5. John 6:53-57 can be difficult to grasp. What do you think it means for someone to “feed” and “drink” of Jesus in this way? (Look back to verses 35 and 40 for help!)

Tom hits on this in the sermon, but to say it plainly, feeding and drinking refer to coming to Jesus and placing our faith in Him. “Hunger” in this passage refers to our great spiritual need that only Jesus can satisfy.

### APPLY

6. Physical hunger is unmistakable when it strikes, but what do you think it means for people to experience spiritual “hunger”? How have you seen this hunger in others and what has it looked like in your own life?

7. God met a physical need in both Exodus and the first part of John 6 (the feeding of the 5,000) in order to reveal Himself. How has God met your physical needs over the past year, and what has this taught you about Jesus? How has it (or should it) impacted your faith?

8. John 16:37-40 speak of the security believers have in Jesus. What difference does it make in your life that Jesus will never cast us out, never lose us, and will raise us up on the last day?

Tom emphasizes this point during the sermon.

9. What else do you find significant or compelling about this week’s sermon and text?

### GOING DEEPER (a.k.a, extra credit!)

We’re testing this out as a way to help you and your group engage in a way that goes beyond the discussion. We may not include it every week, but it could be a good opportunity for you to have experiences that lead to deeper relationships. Give it a try and let us know how it goes.

We are committed to building communities of loving relationships, including in our HomeGroups. One way we do this is simply by encouraging each other to pursue Jesus together.

We just heard about the idea of Jesus as the Bread of Life. Ok, so now what?

One action step you could take in your group this week to help foster a greater spiritual hunger for Jesus is *fasting*. Fasting is mentioned throughout Scripture and is, in-part, a way to temporarily give up one thing so that we might pursue something else. Consider encouraging each other to fast from a meal this week so that you can pray for the Lord to remind you what it means to live on the Bread of Life. Pray that your HomeGroup would hunger for Jesus even more than you hunger for food. Drop us a note afterward this week to let us know how it went!