

## Basic

# The Teaching of Jesus

## Are you hungry?

### I am the bread of life

John 6: 25-59

#### Teaching aim

To show that we all need Jesus to give us eternal life.

#### Memory verse

... 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

#### Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The Teaching of Jesus - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The Teaching of Jesus - 2".

#### Resources

##### Music

- JP 104 I'm feeding on the living bread  
JP 268 We really want to thank you, Lord  
JP 286 Who took fish and bread?

#### Prayer points

Thank God that:

- Jesus will give eternal life to all who will believe in Him.

Pray for:

- Those who think they don't need Jesus in their life.
- Those who find parts of the Bible difficult to understand.

#### Setting the scene

What do you do when you're hungry? Do you sometimes eat a nice big slice of bread to fill your stomach? One day Jesus saw a very large crowd coming to Him and knew that they would be hungry. Do you know how He fed them? A young boy gave over his lunch of five barley loaves and two small fish. Jesus gave thanks and was able to feed more than five thousand people as well as having twelve baskets full of food left over. This was a sign of Jesus' power.

#### More bread please

Read John 6:25-34. The next day many of the people, who had seen Jesus performing the miracle and had eaten some of the bread, followed Him. Jesus knew that they were not interested in what He had to say or in the miracle He had performed. Bread is a very important food and they were only interested in getting some more bread to fill their empty stomachs. Jesus told them to work for bread that would last forever not for bread that would go bad very soon.

**Q.** Who did Jesus say could give them the first sort of bread and why? - *Only Jesus could give this bread for His Father had given Him the power to do so.*

The people didn't understand what Jesus said and asked what sort of work they needed to do to get this everlasting bread. Jesus explained that it wasn't the sort of work they were thinking of. What they needed to do was to believe in the One Whom God had sent. Jesus' listeners told Him that, when their ancestors were wandering in the wilderness with nothing to eat, they were given bread from heaven to eat. Jesus explained that His Father gives the true bread from heaven and that bread of God is the One Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. This sounded good so they asked Jesus to give them this bread from heaven always so that they wouldn't have to work for it.

#### Bread from heaven offered

Read John 6:35-42. Can you imagine how Jesus' listeners felt when He told them that He was the bread of life. He told them that He will

accept anyone who comes to Him and will believe in Him and they will never be hungry or thirsty again. Their problem was that, although they had seen Jesus, they didn't believe in Him.

**Q.** Why did Jesus say He had come down from heaven? - *To do whatever His Father wanted Him to do.*

**Q.** What did Jesus say His father's will was for the world? - *That everyone who believes in His Son, Jesus, would have everlasting life.*

Jesus' listeners were not interested in being told that they needed to listen to Jesus and started criticising Him. In their eyes, He was just an ordinary man whose father and mother they said they knew. They reckoned that He had no right to claim that He had come down from heaven.

#### Bread from heaven refused

Read John 6:43-59. Jesus repeated the promise that anyone who believes in Him has everlasting life and told them again that He is the bread of life Who gives everlasting life. He reminded them that their ancestors who ate bread in the wilderness were dead but that those who eat the living bread from heaven which He offers will never die. They misunderstood Jesus and thought that He meant that they were to eat His flesh. Jesus meant that they had to receive Him into their life if they were to have their sins forgiven and receive His gift of everlasting life. They weren't interested in asking Jesus into their lives so they refused His offer of salvation. You need to ask Jesus into your life and start living for Him. If you have done so, you already have eternal life.

#### Summing up

Jesus' listeners were interested in receiving bread which would satisfy their hunger without having to work for it. Jesus told them that He could give them a different sort of bread. He is the living bread that came down from heaven and Who gives everlasting life to all who believe in Him. Have you trusted in Jesus?

# I am the bread of life

## Maze

Find your way through the maze, writing down each letter in turn to find out what Jesus said to the people.

Start I A M T H

E

F I L F O B

E [ ] D R

H E [ ] A E

W [ ]

L N E V E O B

L [ ] R H E

I U H O G W L

W N [ ] D H E I

O H E S T O M E G [ ] N [ ] E

C O M [ ] R Y A [ ] V

E V E N L L I W E M N I S E

R B E T H I R S T [ ]

Y [ ] Finish

JESUS SAID,

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# I am the bread of life

## True or False

Tick the  below with  if it is true and with 'X' if it is false.

1.  Only Jesus can give us the bread of life.
2.  We are saved by trusting in Jesus alone for salvation.
3.  The people said that Moses gave their fathers manna in the desert.
4.  Jesus said that it was true that Moses gave the manna.
5.  The people had to work to get this everlasting bread.
6.  Jesus told the people that He will accept anyone who trusts in Him.
7.  The people asked Jesus to do a miraculous sign so that they would believe in Him.
8.  Jesus did a miracle to show that He came from God.
9.  Jesus said that He had come down from heaven to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do.
10.  The people believed that Jesus had come down from heaven.
11.  If we trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins, He will.
12.  Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever".