

# Life of Christ

## Jesus is the Bread of Life

John 6:22-59

### Younger Verse

"I am the bread of life." John 6:48 (NIV)

### Older Verse

"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life."  
John 6:47-48 (NIV)

### Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

We have talked about Jesus feeding the big crowd and then walking on water to meet with his disciples who were in a boat during a storm. The Bible tells us that the next morning, the people who remained from the crowd that Jesus had fed realized that Jesus was no longer on that side of the Sea of Galilee. Others had begun to come from a city called Tiberias, across the sea, and those who remained of the crowd that had been fed got into the boats and traveled to the other side. They were looking for Jesus. And they found Him. Jesus knew that they looked for Him because they had eaten until they were full the day before. They did not even care as much about Jesus' miracle; their stomachs had been filled and satisfied and they wanted more.

Jesus wanted something better for them. Food is okay and we need it to live, but Jesus told them not to spend their time just working hard for food and things that they would eat or use up. He wanted them to work for food that would last. What kind of food is there that doesn't spoil or mold or go bad? What food will last forever? Jesus was talking about our work for knowing Him, life forever that only He can give. And when they wanted to know what kind of work it was that they should be doing, Jesus said "The work of God is that you believe in me!"

Do you remember when we talked about the Samaritan woman at the well. What did Jesus offer her? Living water, the Holy Spirit, to fill her life so that she would not need to search for other things to satisfy her! He told her that with living water, she would never thirst again. But, Jesus told these men that He is the Bread of Life! The bread that He gave for the life of the world was His body. How did He give His body? By dying on the cross! And by accepting this gift, Jesus told them they would never hunger again. They would be satisfied on the

### Lesson Goals

Introduce Jesus as the Bread of Life.  
Stress our physical and spiritual need for bread and water.  
Discuss Jesus' sacrifice in our place.

inside in a way that food can't do. We need water and bread to live. They are necessities, we can't live without them, but Jesus does not want us just to work for things that we use up and throw away. If all we are working for and enjoying are things like money and food and clothes and CD's or DVD's, they will soon be used up and we will want more. But if we want to be filled, really filled, never to be empty again, Jesus is the only way.

How is Jesus the only way? What does John 3:16 say? What did Jesus do for us? He gave His life, but how? He was tried and convicted in court by lies; He was beaten; He wore a crown of long thorns and He carried His own cross to the place where they nailed Him to that cross. He died, not because of any wrong thing He had done. He died in my place and in your place because we are the ones who deserve to die. We are the ones who have disobeyed God by not respecting our parents, by lying, by taking things that do not belong to us or by not obeying the teachers and principals God has put over us; by doing what we want instead of doing what we know God wants. But, Jesus didn't come to die for us so that we could follow a bunch of rules and be good people and somehow get to heaven one day. He is the way to get to heaven. He is the way to eternal life. He is the Bread of Life and Living Water. He rose from the dead to live again so that we might live with Him one day!

Do you know if you have done that? Will you live with Him forever in heaven one day? Do you believe that He came to die in your place or are you trying to do all the right things, hoping that you'll be good enough to make it? Well, we cannot be good enough. Jesus is the only way! Will you trust Him today?

**Memory Verse Activities**

On pieces of bread-shaped cardstock, print a word from the Bible verse on each. Hang each by a clothespin, in random order, from yarn that has been strung in your study area. Give your students the opportunity to order the verse correctly.

**Prayer Time**

Pray, thanking God that He supplied our needs, especially for spiritual bread and water, by sending His Son to die for us.

Be sensitive to those who are ready to put their faith in Christ. Take time with them afterward.

**Clean Up and Snack Time**

Bring bread and water for snack and continue to talk about their importance in sustaining life. Continue talking about Jesus as Living Water and the Bread of Life.

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 17  
Some of Jesus' Followers Don't Believe  
John 6:60-71

# Preschool Lesson

## Jesus Died for You and Me!

Sing to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O”

J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,  
J-E-S-U-S, He died for you and me!

He is Bread of Life, He is Bread of Life,  
He is Bread of Life, He died for you and me!

What have you learned about Jesus the last few weeks?

Jesus fed a really big crowd.

Jesus walked on water.

Do you remember what Jesus fed the big crowd with? He fed the people with fishes and bread! Then He walked on water to meet His friends, and they went together, across the sea to a city they spent a lot of time in. The next morning, the people who had been fed the fishes and the bread were looking for Jesus. They wanted more!

Jesus told them there was something more important than just thinking about food (and toys and things that we buy with money). And He told them, that even though doing good things was important, there was something even more important than doing a bunch of good things. Jesus told them that the work God wants us to do is to believe in His Son. Who is God's Son? Jesus is God's Son!

What did God's Son do for you and for me? He died for you and for me.

How did He die? He died on a cross.

Why did He die? He died so that we could be His friends.

Is He still dead? NO!

When did Jesus come back to life? On Easter Sunday!

Pray: God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus. Thank you for making a way for me to be your friend.

# Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today
- Bring pictures of other countries that show the importance of bread and water. For example: Latin Americans with tortillas, Arabs with pita bread, Italians with rustic bread and the French with baguettes, etc. Share with students how Jesus gives life, like bread and water sustain life.
- Make a paper chain of crosses. Adding machine tape rolls are great for this.
- Make a cross from craft sticks. Decorate. Attach a magnet or string for hanging.
- Sing all three verses of *Jesus Loves Me*.

Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little Ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.

*Chorus:* Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gates to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin. Let His little child come in.

*Chorus*

Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;  
If I love Him, when I die, He will take me home on high.

*Chorus*

- If this lesson is falling on Easter, bring the following, as available, to further illustrate the story or re-tell Jesus' last week with Resurrection Eggs. (crown of thorns, purple robe, large railroad nails, a large cardboard cross)
- Again, if this lesson is falling on Easter, hide Resurrection around your Bible study area. (If your group is a large one, divide them into smaller groups, taking turns until each group has had a chance.) Give your students time to find the eggs. When they have returned, have them tell the story, prompting them with the correct order of events.