

Walking With Jesus, the Great I Am

Study Guide for Lesson One—January 18, 2013

Day One:

"I am the Bread of Life"

Welcome to our Winter Bible Study! Today we begin a wonderful journey together through some of the hilltop experiences in the Gospel of John. We will spend one week on each of the seven “**I Am**” statements that Jesus spoke and John wrote. Through his miracles and words, Jesus was reminding Israel who their God is and also declaring to them who HE is. As we study these passages we will be reminded of who God is to us and who Jesus wants to be to us this week—today!

If you are picking up this study guide and you missed the introduction, you will want to take a minute to go to our church website (ccontario.com) and listen to that introduction. It will help you transition into this first week’s passage since we are diving right into—**Jesus, the Bread of Life!**

Open your Bible to **John 6:35**. Underline or mark that verse in your Bible and write it out here:

Before we can fully absorb Jesus’ statement above, we need to back up in Scripture and find out why he said that. Read **John 6:1-4** and establish the scene in your mind using these questions:

- Where in Israel is this passage set?
- More specifically, where is Jesus?
- Who is there with him?
- When is this happening?

Now read **John 6:5-11**

- What is the dilemma they are facing?
- What was one suggestion for solving the problem?
- Who made that suggestion?
- Did it seem to be a likely answer?

From verse 11 write down exactly the three things Jesus did with the bread:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jesus’ solution was quite different than any of his disciples thought of. Are you facing a dilemma in your life? Have you considered a solution? Maybe God has a better solution! Try following this pattern today and write the specifics of YOUR situation to the right of the numbered list.

1. Take what you DO have—
2. THANK God for it—
3. Allow it to bless OTHERS—



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Day Two:

"I am the Bread of Life"

Read **John 6:1-15** again today. What encourages you personally as you read about the multitude fed with plenty to spare?

As you apply this passage to your life, do you believe that Jesus can take the need in **your life** and miraculously meet that need through His power? Write about a time when God did this in your life. Prepare to encourage each other by sharing your story.

In v **14-15**, we see that the people were impressed because they were fed—for free! Why do you think the people wanted to make Jesus their earthly king? What was Jesus' response to this?

Read **John 6:16-25**. We aren't going to study this event as far as the miraculous '*walking on water*' goes, but so that we can follow the flow let's just read it and continue the *scene* in our minds. Describe the thoughts, movements and actions of the crowd of people: Do you think you would have done the same if you were part of the crowd?

Remember, John was an eye-witness to the miracles and teachings of Jesus. We started our study with the feeding of the 5,000 because Jesus often did a grand miracle in order to get people's attention and teach a kingdom principle (sort of like an object-lesson). Guess what's coming up—JESUS says "**I AM the bread of life**"! But the crowd of people is having trouble connecting the dots.

We see that Jesus understood that the true desire of the crowd was a *free lunch*. Often people are interested in Jesus because they are told he will make their marriage better, or their depression go away, or improve their relationship with their kids—in general make things feel better today! Has that ever been your motivation to know Jesus? How does Jesus respond in **John 6:26-27**?

Stay tuned tomorrow as the dialog really gets going...



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Day Three:

"I am the Bread of Life"

Historical Background: When God delivered the Jewish nation out of slavery in Egypt, they had to pass through the desert on their way to the promised land, a trip that needlessly lasted 40 years. God (not Moses) provided food for them on their journey. Every morning, a wafer-type food fell from heaven to sustain them for that day.

Read **John 6:28-40**. Write a brief summary of the dialog between the people and Jesus:

People

v.28

v.30-31

v.34

Jesus

v.29

v.32-33

v.35-40

What do you think it was that the people were looking for? What is the link with the manna?

From the notes you wrote in the “Jesus” column write out three main points that Jesus seemed to want them (us) to understand:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the implication in your life to the words **“He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty?”**



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Day Four:

"I am the Bread of Life"

I sense that spiritual hunger and thirst is at the root of the hopelessness, discouragement and despair that so many people feel today. I know I have felt hunger and thirst—even as a Christian, and just like the crowd beside the lake 2,000 years ago, I have tried to satisfy my spiritual hunger/thirst with something carnal—food, relationship, financial security, adventure—you can fill in the blank with a lot more things. Jesus knows that our deep need is to partake of HIM. To actually have His Spirit living within us to satisfy our hunger and thirst—the same way taking bread and eating it will satisfy our physical hunger. But, like the crowd we can think and feel and live on such a physical plane that we often ‘miss’ the blessing, the contentment that is offered.

Read **John 6:38-40**. Summarize what Jesus is saying:

Write out **John 6:47-48**:

This is the greatest miracle of all, that a sinner, like me, bound to experience the wrath of God, can instantly change course to everlasting life, simply by believing, by accepting and taking in the Bread of Life personally.

Read **John 6:49-51**. The crowd was hoping for something outwardly miraculous and life-sustaining. They were hoping for something like manna to make things better for them today and tomorrow. Jesus reminds them what happened to their forefathers who DID get the manna. What was it?

v.51 says "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.*" How would you explain the difference between the people who ate the manna and still died and eating of the living bread that came down from heaven?

The name of God in the present tense: *I Am the Bread of Life*

Write how THIS particular name of God affects YOU personally today. How does God Almighty want to relate to you based on THIS name:

