

## Bible Studies in the “I Am” sayings of Jesus in John’s Gospel

### Study 2: The bread of life

For discussion and reflection: Where do you think your neighbours find joy and satisfaction?

#### READ John 6:22-59

1. Is there anything that strikes or puzzles you? Discuss ...
2. In verse 26 Jesus says: “you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.”
  - a. What loaves is he referring to?
  - b. What is wrong in coming to Jesus looking to be fed?
  - c. What lesson should we learn from this?
  - d. Have you ever come across anyone who comes to Jesus out of the wrong motivation?
3. In verse 27, Jesus urges them instead to work for “the food that endures to eternal life.”
  - a. Looking through the rest of the passage, where and how does he explain what food he’s talking about?
  - b. We often (on the basis of such passages as Romans 9:16; 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:21) remind each other that we are *not* saved by our works. What is Jesus referring to here, then, when he urges us to work for eternal life?
4. In verse 35, Jesus says: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” Clearly, in the context, the “bread” and “hunger” metaphor is playing off the incident in the first half of the chapter. It’s possible that the “thirst” reference might be playing off the incident a little bit earlier in chapter 4 (see especially verses 13-14).
  - a. What do you think is the hunger and thirst Jesus is talking about?
  - b. How does he offer to meet that need?
  - c. Where do we try to meet that need without Jesus? Does it work?
  - d. Should we look at our neighbours’ fancy cars, houses, holidays, etc. with envy or pity?
  - e. What are you doing to share the bread of life with your starving friends and neighbours?

**PTO ...**

## What they said about the human hunger ...

“So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.” - Solomon, son of David, 10<sup>th</sup> Century BC, *Ecclesiastes 2:9-11*

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” - The Apostle Paul, 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD, *Romans 1:21-23*

“You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.” – St Augustine of Hippo, 5<sup>th</sup> Century AD, *Confessions*

“What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him ... though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself. God alone is man’s true good, and since man abandoned him it is a strange fact that nothing in nature has been found to take his place ...” – Blaise Pascal, 17<sup>th</sup> Century AD, *Pensées*

“I can’t get not satisfaction.” – The Rolling Stones, 20<sup>th</sup> Century AD, *Out of our Heads*

“I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.” – U2, 20<sup>th</sup> Century AD, *The Joshua Tree*