

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Icebreaker: Line-Up: This icebreaker game begins when the group is divided into groups of eight or more. Once groups are divided, the leader then instructs the groups to line-up in order of height, shoe size, or some other light-toned denominator to keep the game fun for all. When the group has lined-up in a particular order, they are then supposed to clap to let the leader know that they are done. The first group to clap wins that round. This is a good way to learn something you never would have thought to ask about someone.—first name, city, major

THE CHARACTER OF JESUS AND WHO HE IS—Is a very controversial issue in our society. His person and his claims about himself have been challenged not only today but also by those who came in contact with him a little over 2,000 years ago. What will do in this series is to look at some of the things that Jesus said about himself and how these sayings change the way we view him but also the way that people live their lives because of such claims.

- **Opening Question:** What are many different views of Jesus in our world today? Why is the character of Jesus such a controversial issue?
- Jesus asked those who were following him in Matthew 18, Who do you say I am?
- **Question:** How would you answer the question if Jesus was to ask you today—WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?
- Today, we are going to looking at a claim that Jesus says about himself.

Background:

Earlier Jesus had just performed a miracle. He had just fed 5,000 people. After all of the people were fed and were satisfied. He left and went to the other side of the lake. Now, we pick up after people have been searching for Jesus and found him.

Read Text: John 6:25-40 (25-31, 32-40)

Textual Questions:

Question: What can you tell me about the people who were searching for Jesus in this passage? What is it that they wanted?

- They want food, they want to eat, see another miraculous sign

Question: What was Jesus' response to people? What is that Jesus was trying to get them to understand? Why?—People were looking for the quick fix. They were looking for the thing that could meet their immediate need. Jesus was trying to get them to focus on their eternal needs not just the temporary fix

Question: How can we be like these people today? We go to Jesus when we need something. We go when we need a quick fix in our lives. When things go wrong or we want something, we go searching for Jesus to meet our temporary needs

The people are like fine, we must do the work that God requires. Then tell us what it is. (Still just want quick fix/tell me what to do answers—give me attitude.) Jesus tells them that the work of God is this: to believe in the one he sent.

Question: What does that mean? Is believing a work?

- Play on of words. He is trying to help the people to think spiritual and not physical. He answered the question what must we do —the work of God. Man's work vs. God's work. It is does take effort and a decision on our part to believe in Jesus. It is not natural. Mental and heart strain, study, understanding

Question: According to vs. 30-34, what is going on in this passage? Do the people understand what Jesus is trying to communicate with them? Why or why not?

- They are still trying to just get their immediate needs met. Moses gave the people something. You give us something

Question: What is keeping them from understanding these spiritual truths?

Question: What are some things that can keep us from understanding the deep things that Jesus wants to teach us?

Vs. 35 Is the climax of this passage. Jesus says that he is the bread of life

Question: What does it mean that Jesus is the bread of life?— I can meet all your needs. If you come to him that all of your real needs will be met in Jesus

Question: What is he revealing about himself in his answers?

- Jesus is the answer to our souls deepest need

Question: Do you think that Jesus, the bread of life, can really satisfy you? How?

Question: What are some things that people look to in order to be satisfied other than Jesus?

Share a time when you looked to something that you truly thought would satisfy you and left you still wanting more?

Conclusion: Read vs. 52-59

Question: What is Jesus trying to communicate to this crowd?

- If you want eternal life that you must be consumed with Jesus Christ.
- The bread of life, Jesus, must be the one that satisfy us more than anything in this world.

Final question: Practically, how can we be consumed with Jesus? What are things that we can begin doing today to make sure that we stay full of Jesus/stay satisfied with Him?

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Icebreaker: Go around the circle have people say their name and answer the following question: If you had to describe yourself using three words, it would be...

- We are going to continue talking about the claims that Jesus made about himself. Last week we discuss Jesus claim that he was the Bread of Life. Does anyone remember what it meant that Jesus was the Bread of Life?
- Today, let's look at another claim but first I have a question for you.
- **Opening Question:** How many of us grew up at some point afraid of the dark? Why? What was it about the dark that you were afraid of? (monster, the boogie man, etc). Why do most kids ask their parents to keep the light when they go to bed? –because the light exposes

Today, we are going to look at another claim that Jesus made about himself.

Read Text: John 8:12-20

Textual Questions

Question: If you were one of Jesus' disciples, and you heard him saying these things about himself what would you be feeling?

Question: Would you be tempted to stop following him? Why or why not?

Question: What did Jesus mean when he said that he is the *light of the world*?

There are two passages that help to understand what Jesus meant when he says he was the light of the world.

Read John 1:1-9 **THE LIGHT GIVES US DIRECTION IN THE DARKNESS**

Question: What do you get from this passage?

- One of the great qualities of light is that it shows things that we could not see. Gives direction. The scripture says that Jesus was the light of all men. Jesus came to give men direction- to be a lamp for their feet

Question: When Jesus came into the world what things did he show people about how they should live for God?

- Showed them how to love, serve, deal with sin, how to get right and connected with God. Showed them the purpose of life and how to live life to the full. He showed them how to make it to heaven and how to live holy lives in a corrupt world.

Question: In your relationship with God, what has Jesus shown you that have most impacted the direction of your life? Where or what would you be doing now if you didn't have the clear direction that Jesus gives those who follow him?

- Jesus gives meaning and direction to our lives. He is the TRUE LIGHT OF ALL MEN. His light also does something besides gives direction

John 3:16-26 **THE LIGHT EXPOSED THINGS THAT ARE HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS**

Question: Why do you think that most people focus on the first part of this scripture but rarely the last few passages?

Question: This passage also reveals why most people don't follow Jesus. What is main reason why people don't truly follow Jesus?

Question: What does it mean that someone loves the darkness?

Question: Most people naturally don't like darkness. Why would anyone want to stay in the darkness spiritually? Why wouldn't everyone want to come into the light?----Fear, comfortable in the darkness,

Question: How is life different in Jesus life compared to living in darkness/

Question: What does living by the truth have to do with being exposed? Vs. 21

Question: What are some truths that the Jesus teaches us about our nature and our hearts?

- **Mark 7:20-23** ²⁰He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' ²¹For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

Share: What are some things that Jesus exposed in your life when you studied the bible or began to draw close to him or what things is he exposing in your life right now?

In John 8:12, What promises does Jesus give those who walk in the light?

- They will never walk in darkness- set free from a dark life,
- They will have the light of life- true life, a fulfilling life, a life of meaning

Concluding Question:

- What are some things that we can do to live in Jesus' light?
- Pray and Confess our sins to one another and to God-1 john 1:9, James 5:16
- Read the word and let the bible change your heart- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Study the bible to learn how we come into the light

I AM THE GATE

Icebreaker: Jenga

READ John 10

Textual Questions:

Vs. 1-6

The scriptures say that he used this figure of speech but they did not understand.

Question: What was he trying to communicate to those who were listening?

Question: What is the difference between the watchman and the thief?

Question: How can people be thieves and strangers today?

Question: How can you tell the watchman's voice over other voices?

Vs. 7-10

Question: What does Jesus mean by saying that I am gate?

Question: What is a gate, and what does a gate do?

- ◆ A gate gives us access to something. We go through a gate to get to what is on the other side.
- ◆ A gate provides a way through a barrier. If not for the gate, we could not get in, because there is no way to get over or around the wall.
- ◆ A gate provides a way through a barrier. If not for the gate, we could not get in, because there is no way to get over or around the wall.

Question: What is Jesus saying about all of those who go through the gate? **They will be saved**

Question: What about those who do not enter through Him or try some other means to acquire salvation?

Question: What does he say about all of those who have come before him? What does that mean?

Question: How do most people feel about this statement? –narrow, there is more than one way

Question: Honestly, how do you feel about this claim that Jesus has made?

-- If you really believe this claim then this means that when you say that you believe in Jesus, you are also saying that everyone else is a thief and a robber and that their teachings on how to be saved are wrong

Question: When you read such strong claims what options are we faced with? Accept or reject

Question: What are the requirements of getting through the gate?

Question: What does Jesus offer on the other side of the gate?

Sharing: What have you found to be the most fulfilling about being a Christian?

Question: Why is that so many people chose not to enter through the gate with so many blessings on the other side?

Concluding Questions:

How does this change the way that you view Jesus, the world or yourself as a follower of Jesus?

Final Charge: We must decide to listen to the Lord's voice so that we can enter through the gate

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Icebreaker:

You will need a big cup and a golf ball. Ask for two volunteers. Have one of them blindfolded. Have the person that is blindfolded to hold the golf ball in their hand and stretch their hand straight out. Put the cup at the far end of the room. Turn the person around times and have the other volunteer to direct them toward the cup so that they can drop the ball in the cup. The person that is not blindfolded cannot touch the person only direct them by their voice. The person that is blindfolded cannot stoop down only drop the ball when told to release it. Have a few people see who can get the closest or in the cup. Afterward, ask was it easy to follow the person's voice? What was the most challenging part for both of the volunteers?

Read John 10: 11-13

Textual Questions:

Question: Who would be the Hired Man? – false prophets,

Question: What is the difference between the Hired hand and the Good Shepherd?

Question: What do you think the wolf and the sheep represent?

The wolf represents—the false prophets, those who would come in and distort the message of Christ for selfish game—church busters

The sheep/flock are God's people—the ones who are inside the gate as we looked at last week

Question: How would you feel if the one who was suppose to protect you ran away when spiritual or physical trouble came?

Question: How would you feel about the one who stepped in to protect you and laid down his life for you?

Read vs. 14-18

Question: What does Jesus means by saying that he is the Good Shepherd?

- Jesus loves his sheep. He deeply cares for his sheep.
- He is not just a Shepherd but he is a good shepherd
- He will not run away. He will stay to fight and protect his sheep

Those hearing him say that he is the good shepherd would have been reminded of the Shepherd's in the OT-REFER to Psalm 23/Ezekiel 34:1-6, 11-16

Question: What does this further teach us about Jesus, the Good Shepherd?

Vs.15-16 The shepherd has this intimate knowledge and relationship with the sheep—I know my sheep and they know me

Question: Why does Jesus want to have an intimate relationship with his people? Why not just have I am the boss just do what I say attitude?

Question: What does it mean that Jesus, the good shepherd has laid down his life for you?

Question: Describe what you imagine a sheep and Shepherd relationship should be like?

Question: What authority is Jesus claiming that he has? How does this affect those who follow him?

Read vs. 19-33

Question: What do the people understand what Jesus is saying about himself?

Question: What are some things that Jesus said that had them draw that conclusions that he is claiming to be God?

Question: Why do they not believe who Jesus' after seeing all of his miracles?

Question: Why is it that after all the evidence about Jesus that people not believe in his deity today?

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS:

Question: What decision will you make today to put yourself in a position that you can hear the voice of Jesus?

Final Charge: Let us continue to listen Jesus' voice and make sure that we are apart of his pasture because he is a good Shepherd

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Icebreaker Question

Opening Question: How many of us fear death? What is your biggest fear when it comes to dying? How would you live your life if you were invincible (like a superhero-wolverine) no matter what happen- you would come back to life?

We are going to come back to this question at the end of our text. Turn to John 11.

Background: This is a sad situation. Mary and Martha has just lost their brother Lazarus. Now Jesus is coming in to town as he has heard that his friend has passed away

READ TEXT

Read John 11:17-24

Question: What does Martha response to Jesus coming to town say about her believe in Jesus?

Question: Does she have a full understanding of who Jesus is—why or why not?

- No, she believes that Jesus could have healed him but she didn't believe that he had the power to bring him back to life in the moment. She believed that Jesus had some power but it was limited to if he had been there at the moment

Question: How can we be like that today?

- Believe that Jesus can help us in some areas but not our whole life
- Choose to only trust him in areas that we understand that he can handle

Question: How do you think it makes God feel when we don't fully and completely trust him with our lives?

Discussion: Share some areas of your life that you find it hard to completely trust that Jesus can work? Why?

Let's keep reading- John 11:25

Question: What do you understand Jesus is saying from this passage? Does it mean that we will never die?

Question: Do you truly believe this for your life? What does this mean to you?

Question: How important is that we truly believe in who Jesus is?

Read John 3:16

Question: What is the promise and condition to the promise in this passage?

Question: What does it mean to truly believe in Jesus?

- John 8:31-32—we hold to his teachings
- 1 John 2:3-6 – We obey his word
- James 2:24—Faith and deeds go hand and hand

Discussion: Do you believe that most people who claim to have faith in Jesus truly "believe in Jesus based on some of the things that we just shared?

Read John 11:27

Question: What does Martha's response say about her believe in the Lord?

Question: Do you think that she at this point she understood that Jesus was able to raise Lazarus from the dead?—let's see

Read vs.38-44

Question: Did she understand what Jesus meant in vs. 25? No

- The great thing about Martha is that she was willing to take Jesus at his word regardless if she totally understood his complete deity.

Question: Do you think that most people who claim to believe in Jesus truly understand His complete deity? Why or why not?

Question: How important is it that we seek to understand Jesus and all that he is? –it is extremely important if are going to live lives that bring glory to God and live in the ways that he calls us to live

Conclusion

- In the opening question, I asked how would you live your life if you could never die.
- **Question:** If you truly believe that Jesus is the resurrection and that we will resurrect again even if we die to have eternal life, how should we live our lives today?
- **Question:** How can we grow in our belief and faith in Jesus so that we can live lives of great faith?

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Icebreaker: Tell us your name and what you believe is the condition of the religious world.

- **Opening Question:** From our discussions and looking at the scriptures so far who is Jesus to you? How has your understanding of Jesus deepened or changed? Today, we are going to look at another claim of Jesus and look at what it means to the world

Text: John 14:1-7

Question: What do you get from this passage?

Question: What is Jesus saying about himself in this passage?—He is the way, the truth and the life

Question: What does Jesus' claim mean for all other religions?

Question: How do you feel about this statement and as you apply it to other faiths and religions?

This passage makes the way to God very narrow.

- It states clearly that there is one way, one truth and one way to true life and it is only through Jesus Christ

Question: Why do you follow Jesus teachings and not others teachings or faiths? Why do you stand by his claims and not others?

One of the most important things to most people is this idea of salvation or their standing in the afterlife.

Question: Do you believe that one's belief in Jesus will affect their afterlife? How?

Question: How do different religions view Jesus?

Pass our chart: **Comparative View of World religion**

Question: What are the different views of Jesus? (Go through each one and discuss)

Question: Does it matter what they believe about Jesus? Why or why not?

- Jesus claims to be God.
- His claims are not those of man but of God
- The real question is does it matter if we listen to words of God or not.

Question: What is it that makes Jesus different from other religious teachers?

Question: What are some of the beliefs about being saved that are taught around the world?

Question: Does it matter if you believe in Jesus as long as you are a "good person"?- *no one is good. We all have sin. We all need forgiveness*

Question: How does this change the way a Christian should view the world?- love, reach out, care, live differently

Question: What does it mean for you to take a stand for Jesus

Question: If what Jesus taught was the truth, then why do so many not follow his teachings?

- Read each scripture and discuss what it means
- Read 2 Timothy 4:3-5/ Galatians 1:6-10/Acts 4:12—*itching/false teachings/refusal to believe in Jesus*

Question: What are some of the things that one may find appealing if not following Jesus teachings?

Question: How will you live your life differently because of Jesus claim?

Final Charge: To call yourself a Christian is to hold to Jesus teachings (John 8:31-32). If we truly believe in Jesus then it is our responsibility to spread his teaching throughout the world so that people can be saved. To do that, we must know the word of God, Jesus teachings and the life that he has called us to live.

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contact info:

topics & dates:

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