

The Essentials: The Gospel of John

Session 3: John 6: 25-40

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: John 6: 25-40 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. A few verses before our passage (vv. 1-14), Jesus feeds 5 thousand people with just a few loaves of bread (vv. 1-15). Read vv. 25-27 again. What do you think Jesus really wants for these people? What is the difference between them wanting to eat bread and see miracles vs. the bread of eternal life?
2. The people say to Jesus “Sir, give us this bread always.” If you were to pray this, what would you like God to provide? What effect would this bread have on your life?
3. When you turn to God in prayer, what do you talk to Him about? Do you pray more for physical needs, or for connection to and participation in God’s love, or both? What does Jesus’ statement to seek food for eternal life more than our fill of loaves (6:26-27) suggest about prayer?
4. When Jesus says that he is “the bread of life” (6:35), does it change the way you view Holy Communion in which we are given the Body and Blood of Christ? Does it have any impact on how or why you receive it? Why or why not?
5. Re-read v. 40. What comes to mind when you think of “eternal life”? Clouds and harps? Something else? What does Jesus’ statement about raising the bodies of the dead suggest that “eternal life” is like?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 6: 25-40

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”