

# **Growth Group Questions**

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ August 11, 2024

## **Introduction**

Today we start a three-week series on Jesus' statement "I am the bread of life." This discourse would mark the end of Jesus' greatest popularity and a rise in opposition. How would you explain Jesus' statement to an unbeliever?

## **Into the Word** – Exodus 16:15-31

1. Two weeks ago, we heard the first part of this chapter. What prompted God to send this manna and how did it show his grace?
2. What two things (at least) do you think God was trying to teach the Israelites with the special rules and results of how manna worked for the Sabbath?
3. God provides for us richly today as well, with even more than simple bread in the desert. Discuss modern Christianity's attitude toward Sabbath rest with the Lord. How do we spend time with the Lord? How could our churches help believers to rebalance time with the world versus time with the Lord?

## **Into the Word** – 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 11-13

4. Paul begins this part of his letter by reminding readers about the special blessings the Jewish people had. First he compares Israel's deliverance from Egypt to our deliverance from sin in baptism. Describe how God uses water in both cases to save.
5. Consider this quote from the People's Bible commentary. A *rabbinical legend held that a portion of the rock at Kadesh*

[Numbers 20] *accompanied the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years and continually supplied them with water. Paul corrects that legend; it was Christ who provided both the water and the manna in the wilderness."*

6. In spite of the miracles of bread and water in the wilderness, what happened to that generation of Israelites? What warning is there in that for us?
7. I love the phrase "us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come." Why did that perfectly describe believers in Paul's time? Why is it still true for us?

## **Into the Word** – John 6:24-35

8. The earthly-minded crowd from the feeding of the 5000 traveled back across/around the lake to find Jesus. What kind of bread did they want? What kind of bread did Jesus offer?
9. Jesus tells them to work for food that doesn't spoil. But when they ask what work God requires, what does Jesus tell them? (*Take note! Does the phrase "work of God" refer to work God DEMANDS or work God DOES? Or BOTH?*)
10. To understand this first part of our three-part sermon, you have to understand this one main point from verses 32-35. What is the bread from heaven we are most concerned with getting?

## **Closing Prayer**

Savior Jesus, turn my from my worldly focus and set my heart on the eternal blessings you give. Fill me with satisfaction in your grace and mercy. Amen.