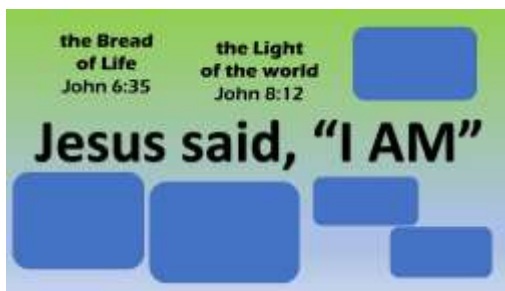
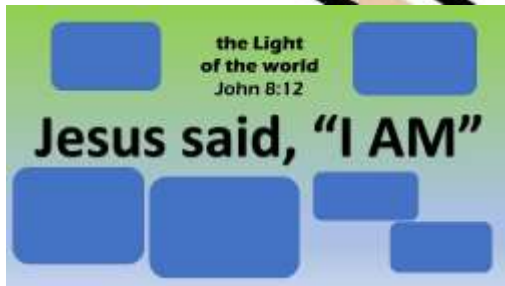


Jesus the Bread of Life



Who is
Jesus?



Hi Guys and Happy new years. I'm excited to do the next couple of Bible studies with you because they are all about Jesus and what he told us about himself. It's going to be a little bit of a mystery some weeks to try to figure out what Jesus is saying. He will make statements about himself, but in that statement sometimes we have to figure out what he's really talking about.

The first thing Jesus said was actually something that we discussed last month at Christmas. We said that Jesus is the light of the world. We talked about the Christmas story and how the light from the angels was super bright and almost blinded the shepherds. And also how the light from the star lead the wise men to the baby Jesus. When Jesus says that he is the light of the world he is talking about the light that helps us see His father, God. When we believe in him and study the Bible we will also have light to see which way to go and how to make decisions about life and also about how to treat other people. When Jesus said he was the light it was easy for us to understand what that means.

This month we will look at the words of Jesus when he said, "I am the Bread of Life." I think you are going to find in the Bible account we study that this was confusing for the people around him and especially the leaders, who didn't really want to understand Jesus, instead they wanted to find things they didn't like about him. Our story this month begins at the Sea of Galilee.

In John 6, it says one day Jesus crossed the sea of Galilee with some of his disciples and a great crowd followed him.

The crowd was interested in having him heal their sick and lame and they also wanted to hear what Jesus was teaching.

So Jesus went up into the hills and taught the people. He taught for a long time and the people were getting really hungry. But the people hadn't really planned on spending the whole day so they didn't have much to eat.

Jesus the Bread of Life



The people complained that they were hungry and the disciples talked to Jesus about the situation.



Jesus had compassion on the people and decided to help the people but also teach them truth about himself.



He asked his disciple and friend Philip to be in charge of getting food for the people.



Philip was confused because the crowd was so big and they were far from any local town, so there was no where for them to get food



Jesus asked the disciples if they would go out among the crowd and find out what was available to eat and all that they found was this boy with some bread and fish.



SO Jesus took the bread and fish and blessed it. Then he started breaking it up and passing it out.

Jesus the Bread of Life



Jesus had the people sit in smaller groups and began to have the disciples pass out the bread and the fish.



The disciples passed out the bread and fish to everyone from the smallest child to the oldest adult.



The amazing part was that everyone was served and at the end of the meal there were 12 baskets left over. I think there were 12 left over baskets because there were 12 disciples. So each disciple had a basket and a reminder right in front of them of the amazing things God can do.



Jesus dismissed the crowds at the end of the day and he told his disciples to go to the other side of the lake in a boat.



Jesus went up on the hill to spend some time in prayer and to talk to his father. The people in the crowd noticed that Jesus went off alone and the disciples were on the boat.



As they sailed through the night a storm broke out and the boat was being tossed by the rain and wind. And the disciples were getting scared.

The disciples had just seen Jesus do an incredible miracle but instead of trusting that Jesus was going to protect them they feared instead.

Jesus the Bread of Life

Out in the water they saw a figure coming toward them and it really scared the disciples. But that figure was actually Jesus and he was coming to meet the men.

When he reached the boat the disciples helped him into the boat and when he climbed inside...


The storm stopped and the water was completely calm again.

When day broke and they got to the other side of the sea, a crowd was already forming to see Jesus. These people had walked around the lake and were surprised to see Jesus with the disciples since the last thing they knew was that Jesus and the disciples separated at the end of the day when the disciples got on the boat.

When Jesus got to the other side, I'm sure there were some in the crowd who had been fed by the bread and fish the previous day and expected Jesus to do another miracle and feed them again. And they just walked around the sea, so they were probably hungry.

Imagine, if each day you woke up and walked into your kitchen and all the food you needed for the day just magically appeared. That's kind of what the people expecting of Jesus. But instead Jesus said to them...

Jesus the Bread of Life



I am the
Bread of Life

he was the BREAD of LIFE. That made the people excited, they thought that if they just stayed close to Jesus he would provide them with bread for the rest of their lives. They even asked him, what work they would need to do to get this bread.

But Jesus reminded them that he was the bread of life and that whoever comes to him will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The people were excited but maybe a little confused too.

Jesus told them other things like if they believed in him they could have eternal life. When Jesus said he was the bread of life, he wasn't talking about physical life, but eternal life. He was what they needed to believe in to have eternal life. Just like you need bread and food to make it through the day, We also need Jesus in order to have eternal life.



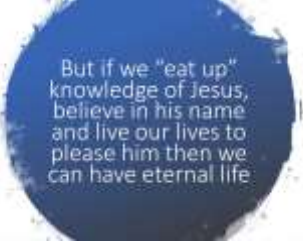
But the leaders were upset and said who is this man that claims to be from heaven and can give eternal life. Isn't he just Josephs son, he's nothing special. Those leaders didn't understand that Jesus was God and because he was God he could give eternal life to those who believed in Him.



But the leaders were upset and said who is this man that claims to be from heaven and can give eternal life. Isn't he just Josephs son, he's nothing special. Those leaders didn't understand that Jesus was God and because he was God he could give eternal life to those who believed in Him.

But the leaders were upset and said who is this man that claims to be from heaven and can give eternal life. Isn't he just Josephs son, he's nothing special. Those leaders didn't understand that Jesus was God and because he was God he could give eternal life to those who believed in Him.

Jesus the Bread of Life



But if we "eat up" knowledge of Jesus, believe in his name and live our lives to please him then we can have eternal life.

We need to "eat up" knowledge about Jesus, believe in his name and live our lives to please him, then we will have eternal life.



That's sounds like a better plan doesn't it. Jesus lived a perfect life on earth and choose to die on the cross to pay the price for our sins. Because no one can come to God unless he believes in Jesus. We can't do enough good things, or say the right words, or think the right thoughts to make up for the bad things we do. In fact God reminds us that we need the Holy Spirit's help to do anything that pleases God. Will you trust in Jesus today?



So far we've learned that Jesus is the Light of the World. He guides and directs us with his life, and that light gives hope to all believers.



And today we learned that Jesus is the Bread of Life. Just like we need bread or to eat every day, we also need Jesus in order to have eternal life.

I wonder what we will learn about Jesus next month. Have a great day and remember to do the Digging In questions and download the coloring sheet that remind us of our Bible verse.

Digging In Questions

Choose the best answer

1. In December we learned Jesus said about himself, "I am the _____ of the world."
A. Trophy B. Light C. Creator D. Designer
2. In our story Jesus spent the day healing the sick and preaching to the people. The people forgot to bring what with them?
A. Food B. Change of clothes C. Their kids D. a blanket
3. Jesus asked _____, one of his disciples, to get food for them.
A. Peter B. John C. James D. Philip
4. How many baskets of food were left over?
A. 12 B. 15 C. 1 D. 7
5. Jesus said about himself, "I am the _____."
A. Garden gate B. Bread of Life C. Christmas feast D. Best thing ever

Things to think about

1. What are some things we need every day?
2. What does God provide for us?
3. Why does God care about the things we need?

God loves us and gives us what we need to live every day. Whether it's food, shelter, clothes, friends, or transportation, God gives us what we need. But more importantly God gives us instructions for living from his word. If we spend time reading his word and getting to know his ways better we will have what we need to live a life that is pleasing to God. If you are looking for more ways to know God, read one of the Psalms. You can learn more about Jesus by reading the gospel of Mark or John.

Answers to the Questions:

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. A 5. B

Letter Codes

A—1	H—8	O—15	V—22
B—2	I—9	P—16	W—23
C—3	J—10	Q—17	X—24
D—4	K—11	R—18	Y—25
E—5	L—12	S—19	Z—26
F—6	M—13	T—20	
G—7	N—14	U—21	

Use the key above to decode the Bible Verse.

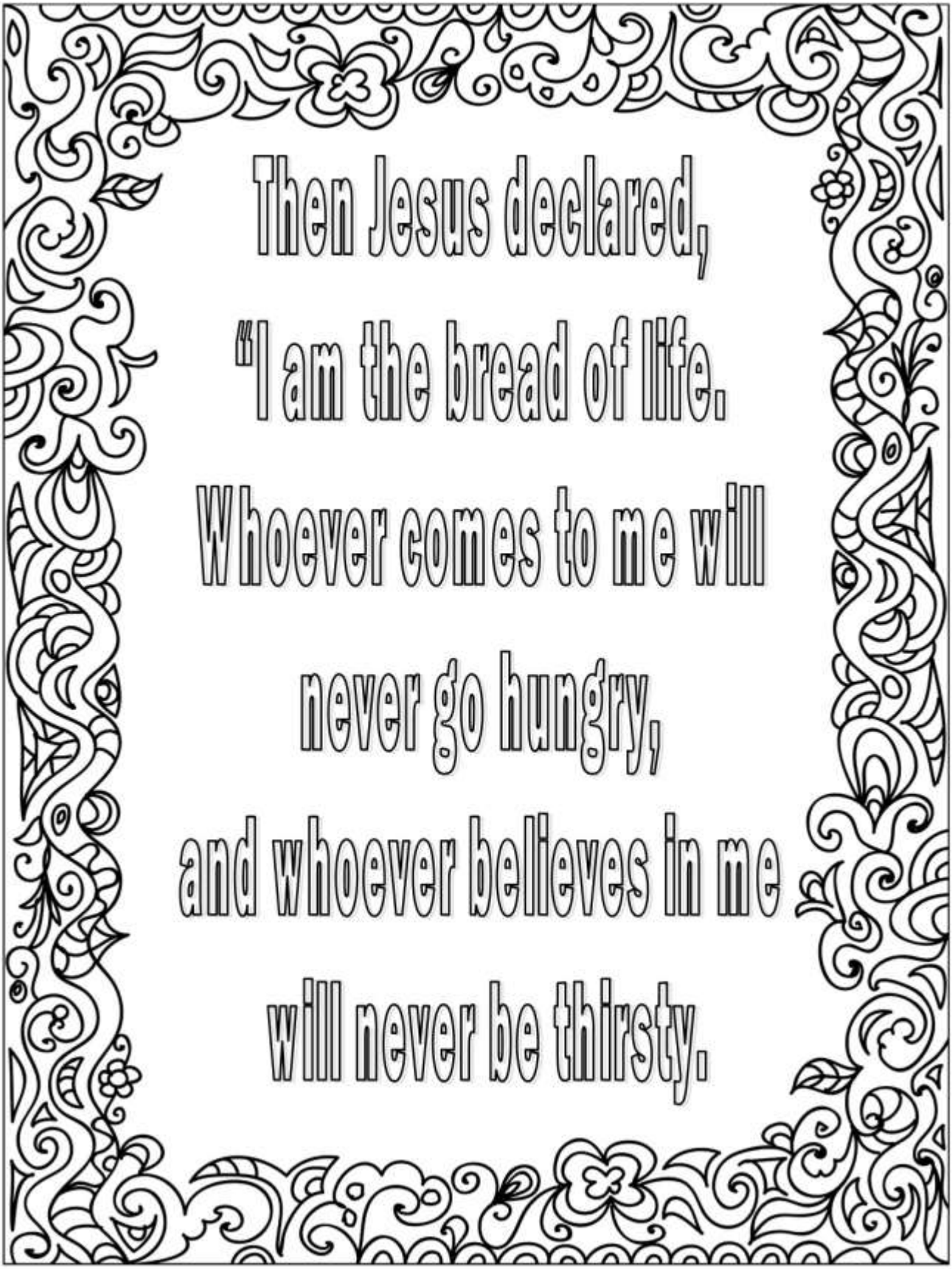
13 1 14 19 8 1 12 12 14 15 20 12 9 22 5 15 14

2 18 5 1 4 1 12 15 14 5 2 21 20 15 14

5 22 5 18 25 23 15 18 4 20 8 1 20 3 15 13 5 19

6 18 15 13 20 8 5 13 15 21 20 8 15 6 7 15 4

Matthew 4:4



Then Jesus declared,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will
never go hungry,
and whoever believes in me
will never be thirsty."