



February 5, 2017  
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*Bread of Life*

**Read John 6:24–35**

- 1) Crowds often represent the most basic (or most base) of human reactions to Jesus. What does this crowd want? Compare that desire with Jesus' interest.
- 2) What makes bread a helpful metaphor for what Jesus is most interested in providing?
- 3) In vv.32–35 Jesus clearly connects his ministry to what God does in Exodus 16 with the manna. What are the connections between manna and Jesus? How is he better?
- 4) Jesus wants the people to have good spiritual nourishment. How would you describe your sources of nourishment right now... starvation, junk food, poison, a staple, exotic, or something else?

**On Communion:**

- 1) Jesus was celebrating a Passover meal at the first communion. Read the story of the first Passover in Exodus 12:1–30.
- 2) How might the Passover moment help add layers of understanding for our celebration of communion?
- 3) What themes do you notice in Exodus 12 that also belong in celebrating communion?
- 4) Consider each of these words for our celebration of communion. What layer of meaning does each word add? How have you learned to receive communion with these multiple meanings all present at the same time?  
 Eucharist. Communion. Remembrance. Lord's Table. Sign. Seal.

**Scripture passage for February 12**

<sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

<sup>41</sup> At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

<sup>43</sup> "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. <sup>44</sup> "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. <sup>46</sup> No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. <sup>50</sup> But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

<sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

<sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

John 6:36–59