

Lesson #16
Teaching Outline

Jesus Feeds the 5000 and Walks on the Water

John 6 and Mark 6

Three Principles:

1. Never judge your problems in light of your resources.
(God met the need in unimaginable ways!)
2. Put yourself in a position for God to do something huge.
(Jesus used a little boy who was in the right place at the right time)
3. Accept God's invitation to participate in what He is up to.
(Get involved in what God is doing and where He is working)

Lecture Outline

I. The Compassion of Jesus

- A. The Supper: Jesus Feeds the Multitudes (John 6:1 – 14)
- B. The Storm: Jesus Leaves the Multitude (John 6:15 – 21)
- C. The Sermon: Jesus Teaches the Multitude (John 6:22 – 71)

II. The Conclusions of the Crowd

- A. Seekers of Truth (John 6:22-40)
- B. Grumblers (John 6: 41-51)
- C. Disputers (John 6:52-59)
- D. Deserters (John 6: 60-71)

Lesson #16
Series 2 – Story 10

Jesus Feeds the 5000 and Walks on the Water

John 6:1-15; Mark 6:30-52

***JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE WHO SATISFIES OUR DEEPEST
HUNGER AND CALMS OUR GREATEST FEARS.***

Story Outline:

- I. Faith Tested
- II. Feeding the Multitudes
- III. Fears Calmed Through Storm

Life Application Principles:

- 1. Jesus tests our faith in order to deepen it.
- 2. Looking to human solutions brings doubt and despair while looking to God brings peace and answers.
- 3. Only the resources of God possess “the bread” that feeds the various hungers of life.
- 4. When experiencing an impossible situation with no human solution, we must turn to Jesus who is able to accomplish the impossible.
- 5. We must not seek signs and miracles but only the Savior, Jesus, for He alone satisfies our needs.
- 6. God has chosen his followers to be a channel of blessing to the world.
- 7. We must include the all-powerful, all knowing, all loving God into the equation of our greatest challenges.
- 8. Every physical challenge should be a spiritual opportunity to share the love of Jesus.
- 9. Little is much when we put it in the hands of Jesus.
- 10. Life’s challenges reveal what we truly believe.
- 11. Jesus makes provision for our every need and tests us to see if we fully trust him.
- 12. The presence of Jesus brings peace to the soul.

NAME OF JESUS

Devotional Reading

“BREAD OF LIFE”

Of all the many wonderful foods on the planet, one of my very favorites is freshly baked bread. Just the thought of it causes my taste buds to come to life and my stomach to leap with excitement! The very aroma of bread is so attractive and luring to my senses that I cannot help follow the scent in hopes of being able to enjoy its various textures and savor its distinct flavor. I admit, bread is not always the most beautiful or eye-catching food with its often crusty, hard brown outer shell, but once broken revealing its soft and delicate center it becomes at once the most desirable and irresistible of all foods to me . . . so much so, that I have been known to eat a whole loaf by myself in a day! Because of this love of bread, I learned how to make it when my girls were young. Given the endearing name “*Mommy Bread*” by my daughter Sarah at the age of 2, it has become a family favorite at meal time, a treat to be shared among friends around our kitchen table, and a gift to be given as a blessing and token of love, encouragement and hope to friends, neighbors and strangers alike. Best of all, however, it has been served many times at the Lord’s Table for Holy Communion. I can think of no higher honor than to offer my meager homemade bread as a gift back to Jesus, the very **BREAD OF LIFE**, “*the true Bread of heaven, the Bread of God, who comes down from heaven to give life to the world*” (John 6:32-33), that it might serve as the symbolic reminder of His Body that was broken so that all who believe in Him are lovingly saved, constantly sustained and eternally secure.

Since ancient times, bread has been an essential part of human life and vital to man’s very existence. Made from a variety of grains and seeds, such as wheat, barley, beans, lentils, and millet (Ezekiel 4:9), people all over the world have baked and eaten bread almost daily for life-sustaining nutrition. From the earliest writings in the Hebrew Scriptures, we see that bread was very important. It was used as a means of welcome and fellowship among friends and strangers and as a sacred object to honor and worship God. Abraham offered “*a morsel of bread*” for “*refreshing*” to the three strangers who visited him in Mamre announcing that Sarah would have a baby (Genesis 18:1-6). Unleavened bread was eaten for seven days after the Israelites escaped Egypt and became an important part of the sacred Passover meal, as well as a feast to be celebrated annually among the Jews called The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:15, 13: 3-16). In the Tabernacle, the Bread of the Presence, twelve freshly baked loaves representing the covenant between God and the twelve tribes of Israel, served as a constant reminder of His eternal presence, power and protection (Leviticus 24:23-30). And in answer to the

grumbling Israelites in the wilderness, God rained down “*bread from heaven*” called “*manna*” every day to sustain the nation the entire 40 years of their wayward wandering on the way to the Promised Land (Exodus 16).

Behold, I am about to rain bread down from heaven for you and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day. (Exodus 16:4)

He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, and He rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. Man ate of the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.” (Psalm 78:24-25)

In the New Testament, the truth surrounding the necessity and importance of bread is not lost. In fact, it intensifies. When Jesus Christ, who was very fittingly born in Bethlehem, which means “*house of bread*,” became God Incarnate, the meaning and significance of bread among believers in God forever changed. No longer merely a material object to be eaten to sustain physical life and sacrificed to enhance worship, bread became synonymous with a living Man, Jesus Christ, God made flesh. Calling Himself, the **BREAD OF LIFE**, He became the true food for the soul that has the power to change and nourish the spiritual heart of man and completely satisfy him forever.

*“I am the **BREAD OF LIFE**; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)*

*“Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the **BREAD OF LIFE**. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the Bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat it and not die. (John 6:47-50)*

According to ancient Hebrew, the word *manna* is literally translated “*what is it?*” the very question the wandering Israelites asked one another in the wilderness (Exodus 16:15), to which Moses responded “*it is the bread the Lord has given you to eat*” (Exodus 16:16). Made from coriander seed, it was a small, round, white wafer that was sweet in taste like honey. The Lord commanded the people to gather it every morning . . . just enough for that day, never to hoard or save it for later except for the Sabbath, because the supply would always be plentiful. Regarded in Jewish theology as one of the greatest miracles of God ever performed, the Jewish Rabbis have traditionally taught that the coming Messiah would prove His authority by repeating this very miracle. “*As was the first Redeemer, so shall be the final Redeemer. As the first Redeemer caused the manna to fall from heaven, even so shall the second Redeemer cause manna to fall.*” (Strong’s Concordance)

From this teaching it is easy to understand why the mostly Jewish crowd who witnessed the miraculous feeding of the 5000 by Jesus with only two small loaves of bread and five fish exclaimed, “*This is indeed the Prophet who is come into the world!*” (John 6:14). Sadly, what was rightly understood on that day was lost by the majority of those who

were following Him on the next. When He proclaimed the true message of the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes, teaching in depth the profound truth saying: *“I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life”* (John 6:51, 53-55), it was more than they wanted to hear or accept. Desiring only the material gifts of Jesus, rather than the spiritual and eternal gifts found in the truth of WHO He is and WHY He came, most simply walked away. Additionally, and even more tragically, due to pride and fear of loss of position and power, the Jewish leaders also refused to accept the miraculous sign and Christ’s hard teaching that He is the **TRUE BREAD OF LIFE** that has come to redeem them. As a result, the nation of Israel is still walking in darkness and waiting for their Messiah to come.

In fact, today, the vast majority of people in the world are still living in moral and spiritual darkness. Are you? Even those who profess to believe in Jesus Christ and call Him their Savior are not immune to falling back into the darkness and immorality of this evil world. Have you? The only hope and complete cure is found in what you seek to eat and who you seek to feed upon. If your spiritual diet is deficient . . . if you fail to *“eat”* the manna of heaven, the true Word of God as found in the Holy Bible, and *“feed”* on Jesus Christ, the **BREAD OF LIFE**, you will quickly find yourself malnourished and slipping into the darkness. Like an anorexic who becomes comfortable and content in the condition of starvation, you will lose your sense of hunger and your desire for the Bread that gives and sustains life. Can you relate? Are you eating too much of the world’s hard, dry, crusty bread that leads to darkness and death? Do you need to change your diet? Do you want more of Jesus, *“Heaven’s Bread,”* the **BREAD OF LIFE**, that has come down to recuse and redeem you from death and to nourish your soul so that you might be filled with new and eternal life? Charles Spurgeon once said *“If you endure any want it is your fault. If you are restricted, you are not restricted in Him but in your own heart.”* Don’t restrict your spiritual diet because it is *“too hard”* to follow God’s nutrition plan.

Throughout His life and ministry Jesus taught that the Christian life is not a matter of doing, but rather a matter of receiving. *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you”* (Matthew 7:7). Jesus, the **BREAD OF LIFE**, does not tell us to first go make the bread, then eat the bread and you will be blessed. He says *“sit down, open your hands and I will feed you my BREAD, the true BREAD OF HEAVEN, that will be the sweetest and most delicious meal you have ever had. Like honey it will be a delight to your soul and because it is an endless supply, it will satisfy all your heart’s desires. All you need to do, my child is simply come, just as you are, and I will do the rest.”* Jesus will never fail to satisfy the hungry, seeking soul. He will never turn away anyone who willingly sits at His feet with no agenda except to be

fed the Word of Truth that gives light in the darkness and complete satisfaction to the weary and hungry soul.

What “*bread*” are you filling up on today? Where are you going to find satisfaction for your hunger and thirst? If it is to anyone or to anywhere other than **JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE** and His true Word, then I encourage you to change your diet immediately. Like the Israelites who were told to gather the sweet manna, the **BREAD OF HEAVEN**, to sustain their life in the wilderness, so must you and I. We must humbly stoop every morning to gather the delicious and life sustaining morsels of truth from His living Word that we might have power, strength and energy for the day ahead. We cannot arrogantly rely on yesterday’s or last week’s supply to sustain us. We need fresh BREAD daily. To neglect to feed daily on Jesus, the very Bread of God is to live the day in a state of starvation that leads to a lack of power and strength to overcome the darkness and immorality around us.

Feast on the everlasting supply of BREAD that never gets dry and never goes stale! Don’t rush the meal, but savor it. Take small bites and chew on them so they become a part of you, releasing His life-giving energy and power into every cell of your body. Inhale the aroma of Christ as you meditate on His sweet and delicious words of life. Let Him fill you to the point of overflowing and then go and share with others the delicious morsels of the **TRUE BREAD** that they too might desire to eat of the **BREAD OF LIFE** and be saved, satisfied, energized and eternally secure.

“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he will also live because of Me.

This is the BREAD that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this BREAD will live forever.”

John 6: 57-58

“And He took the bread, and when He had given thanks,

He broke it and gave it to them saying,

“This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Luke 22:19

THE DOCTRINE

“I AM”

Understanding the Name

Names are important throughout the Holy Scriptures. They reveal in personal terms the very nature and character of a person. This is no different with God. However, while we have only one or two given names often chosen by our parents for sentimental reasons, God has many names given to Him in an attempt to explain the unique and powerful attributes of His indescribable Being. Every single name associated with Him tells us a little bit more about WHO He is, WHAT He does and WHY He acts in the ways He does. By understanding His qualities and attributes, we are able to better worship Him in truth and serve Him with passion and joy. “*El*” (God), “*Elohim*” (plural of “*El*” that tells of His exclusive creative power and infinite wisdom), and “*Adonai*” (Lord, Master) are just few to mention from the extensive list of names found throughout the Word of God.

However, there is one Name in all of the scriptures that God gives Himself. It is a name packed with spiritual meaning that is truly hard to explain and even harder to fully grasp. It is the name above all names: “**I AM.**” The first record of this all-inclusive, all-powerful Name of God in the scriptures is found in Exodus 3:13-15 when God called to Moses from a burning bush and commissioned him go to Pharaoh and demand he release God’s people from bondage and slavery. Seeking a greater understanding of exactly WHO was speaking to him, Moses asked:

“If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your father’s has sent me to you’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ Say to this people of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and thus to be remembered throughout all generations.”

In Hebrew this name is written with the four consonants YHWH (known as the Tetragrammaton) to describe the Supreme Being who was considered so holy that it was irreverent to even speak His name out loud. Pronounced “*Yahweh*” or “*Jehovah*” the name means “*He Who Makes That Which Has Been Made*” or “*He Brings into Existence Whatever Exists*” (Ancient History Encyclopedia). Literally translated throughout the Old Testament using the two Hebrew words, “*Elohim*” and “*Adonai*,” Moses clearly understood that the Supreme Deity, the Most High God who created the heavens and earth, the all-powerful Lord God Almighty who made a personal covenant with the people of Israel, was indeed the voice speaking out from the burning bush. In essence God said to Moses: “*I, the uncreated Creator, the self-existent, unchanging Being who*

*has no beginning and no end, the One who was and is and is to come, the all-powerful faithful One, who is also the personal, and ever-present Covenant-making, Covenant-keeping God who intervenes on behalf of all who love and believe in Me, **AM** He who called you.”* Unfortunately, as was the case then, so it is now, men have always had a very difficult time accepting this concept of a self-existent, uncreated Being, who is unparalleled in power and who sovereignly rules and reigns over all the affairs of the universe, including mankind.

Regarding the Great **I AM**, A.W. Tozer writes, *“That God is everything and man, apart from Him is nothing, is a basic tenet of Christian faith and devotion. Philosophy and science have not always been friendly toward the idea of God, the reason being that they are dedicated to the task of accounting for things and are impatient with anything that refuses to give account of itself. The philosopher and the scientist will admit that there is much that they do not know; but that is quite another thing from admitting that there is something which they can never know, which indeed they have no technique for discovering. To admit that there is One who lies beyond us, who exists outside of all our categories, who will not be dismissed with a name, who will not appear before the bar of our reason, nor submit to our curious inquiries: this requires a great deal of humility, more than most of us possess, so we save face by thinking God down to our level, or at least down to where we can manage Him. Yet how He eludes us! For He is everywhere while He is nowhere, for ‘where’ has to do with matter and space, and God is independent of both. He is unaffected by time or motion, is wholly self-dependent and owes nothing to the worlds His hands have made. The fact of God is necessary to the fact of man. Think God away and man has no ground of existence.”* Sadly, because of man’s unwillingness to believe that God is the Great **I AM**, the world has and will continue to operate in a state of constant chaos, sin and darkness until **I AM** comes again in all His fullness and glory as the resurrected Christ, the King of Kings and Lords of Lords, to redeem the world once for all from the bondage and slavery to sin and Satan.

JESUS, THE GREAT I AM

Several times in the Gospel of John Jesus claims to be the “**I AM**,” the Lord God Almighty who is not merely co-equal with God, but who is in fact undeniably God in all His fullness and majesty.

- **John 4:26.** When the Samaritan woman at the well wondered if the man who was offering her Living Water that springs into eternal life was the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus said to her with the powerful words “*I who speak to you am He.*” *Jesus was in the literal sense proclaiming ‘I AM’ He . . . the well-spring of God from Whom all life flows.*” So powerful was His testimony that she believed and immediately went to tell others she had found the Christ.

- **John 6:20**. While sailing across the Sea of Galilee at night during a great wind storm, the disciples saw Jesus walking towards them on top of the waters. Terrified they cried out, but Jesus answered them proclaiming His great Name saying *“It is I; do not be afraid.”* Taking Him into the boat, the winds immediately ceased and in awe they worshipped Him. By His bold proclamation and the outworking of His power, they understood a little more fully that the One in the boat with them was the Great **I AM** with all the authority of God.
- **John 8:24-28**. In speaking to the Jews who refused to believe Jesus’s testimony about Himself that He was sent to the world by His Father, He said *“unless you believe that **I AM** He, you will die in your sins.”* Not understanding because their hearts and minds were darkened to the truth, Jesus further explained, *“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I AM** He.”* By this, Jesus was clearly and powerfully teaching that man can only be saved by recognizing and believing that Jesus and God are one. Scripture says many Jews believed in Him, but the Jewish leaders still questioned and balked at His claims.
- **John 8:58**. Continuing to question Jesus’s words and claims about Himself, the Jews accused Jesus of being a Samaritan who had a demon. Regarding His statement that *“if anyone who keeps my word will never taste death”* they asked Him, *“Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? . . . Who do you make Yourself out to be?”* (John 8:51,53), Jesus powerfully answered *“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM**.”* Knowing exactly what He meant, that he was claiming to be God, the Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill Him accusing Jesus of being a blasphemer.
- **John 18:4-6**. On the night of His betrayal when the soldiers came into the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked them *“Who do you seek? They answered Him ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus said to them ‘**I AM** He.’ Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When He said to them, ‘**I AM** He,’ they drew back and fell to the ground.”* When Jesus spoke declaring His true identity, the very Power of God fell upon his enemies sending them to the ground, rendering them helpless.

By these powerful statements, Jesus not only proclaimed His Deity but also displayed His power as Almighty God (*“Elohim”*). He declared, without apology, that He was most certainly the self-existent and all-powerful God (*“EL”*) from eternity past, present and future.

The Seven I Am Statements of Christ in the Gospel of John

Charles Spurgeon writes, *“The whole of God is glorified in Christ; and though some part of the Name of God is written in the material understanding, it is best read in Him who was the Son of man and also the Son of God.”* The seven **“I AM”** statements of Jesus Christ give us an even greater picture of WHO He is and WHY He came. Using metaphors to describe Himself, He teaches us that He is the one who can uniquely meet our greatest need in life and secure for us an eternity where there is abundant peace, impenetrable security and great joy with the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY forevermore.

- **John 6:35:** *“I AM the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.”* Jesus is the true food that feeds the hungry heart and soul of man. Whoever feeds on Him will live forever.
- **John 8:12:** *“I AM the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”* Jesus is the divine light of God that is so powerful it cannot be overcome by the darkness of sin and death. *“Just as natural light is essential to life on earth, Christ’s light is essential to unending life with God. Whoever believes in His light becomes like Him, reflecting His brightness by walking in His light and obeying His commands.”* (Spangler, p.30)
- **John 10:9:** *“I AM the Door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”* It is only through Jesus Christ that anyone enters into heaven. When you go through the “doorway” of the crucified Christ, you are at once saved from your sin, redeemed from your bondage, and bestowed the free gift of eternal life. *“Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”* (Romans 5:2)
- **John 10:11:** *“I AM the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* Of this metaphor Charles Spurgeon writes, *“Jesus stands in the same relationship to His people as a shepherd does to his flock. He takes care of them day and night. He protects them from the wolf. He guards them from a thousand dangers. He supplies all their needs. He guides them in the right way. He brings them back when they wander. He strengthens them when they are weak. He carries them when they are too feeble to go on. He sees they are a weak flock, a silly flock, and a wandering flock; therefore He is their strength, their wisdom, their righteousness, their all.”*
- **John 11:25-26:** *“I AM the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall*

never die.” All who believe in Jesus need not fear death. He promises that we will be raised from the dead and given new and glorified bodies and live in the new heavens and new earth where he rules and reigns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever! When we belong to Him we have everything we will ever need now in this life and in eternity to come.

- **John 14:6:** *“I AM the Way, and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to salvation. He is the TRUTH to believe and the LIFE to receive. Without these two elements, there is no salvation. *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”* (Acts 16:31)
- **John 15:5:** *“I AM the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in Him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* Jesus Christ is our life-line. Unless we live in constant conscious union with Him, depending on Him for our every need we will fall, we will fail, and if we are not careful, we will be cut off and *“thrown into and the fire, and burned”* (John 15:6). However, if we abide in Him, He has the power to make us holy, victorious in this life, and acceptable to God. Only by abiding in Christ can we overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil that leads us into sin because as Paul beautifully writes *“I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.”* (Philippians 4:13)

Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who is God, brings to life by His coming in the flesh the very ***“I AM WHO I AM.”*** He makes personal and approachable the God whom the Jews so greatly feared that they would not even speak His name, lest he smite them dead. There is no more worthy endeavor for us than to mine the scriptures that we might better know Jesus and love Him more purely.

Questions for Reflection

Read Matthew 14:1-14, Mark 6:7-34, Luke 9:1-11, John 6:1-4

1. What had the 12 apostles been doing prior to Jesus suggestion to go away with Him to a quiet place and rest awhile? What other event do Matthew and Mark include that would have added to their weariness? What does this teach you about Jesus, His compassion and the importance of solitude, rest and prayer?
2. According to Luke and John, where did Jesus and the apostles go? How did they get there? Were they successful in their endeavor to be alone for a time of rest and refreshing?
3. How did Jesus respond to the multitudes that followed Him? According to Mark how did they get to the other side of the Sea? How eager are you to be with Jesus? What are you willing to sacrifice in order to sit at His feet Him and be taught by Him?
4. In John 6:4, he tells us it was the time of the Jewish celebration of Passover. What does this feast commemorate? (see Exodus 14 for help) Why do you think John included this specific detail in recounting this miracle?
5. Remembering Jesus's teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, what blessing comes to mind as you read this passage? (see Luke 6:20-21)

Read Matthew 14:15-18, Mark 6:35-38, Luke 9:12-15, John 6:5-10

6. After a long day of teaching what did the apostles suggest to Jesus that He do with the crowd? What was their reasoning?

7. How did Jesus respond to their suggestion? Why do you think He did so? (consider both practical and spiritual reasons)

8. *Read* John 6:5-9. Out of the 12, why do you think Jesus directed His question to Philip? (See John 1:45 for help). What does Philip's reply reveal about his faith? Where does his dependence lie? In contrast, what do Andrew's actions reveal about his faith?

9. Reflecting on previous lessons, how was Jesus using this "*impossible situation*" to build on their faith and deepen their understanding of WHO He truly is?

10. Life's challenges reveal what we truly believe. How have you responded to various challenges and crises in your life? What do your responses reveal about your faith and trust in Jesus Christ?

11. What recent "test" or experience has God allowed in your life to deepen your faith?

Read Matthew 14:19-21, Mark 6:39-44, Luke 9:16-17, John 6:11-16

12. Before performing the miracle of feeding the 5000, what did Jesus instruct the apostles to do? What particular action did Jesus take before serving the “meal?” Give several lessons you learn about discipleship, service and prayer.

13. Little is much when we put it in the hands of Jesus. Share a time when you had only a little to give, but by giving what you had, you saw Jesus multiply it.

14. According to John, how did this mostly Jewish crowd respond to Jesus and this miracle? Why might they have done so? (See Exodus 16 and Deuteronomy 18:15-18). What does their action in v.15 reveal about their understanding of WHO Jesus truly was and what they expected of Him?

Read Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21

15. Both Matthew and Mark make it clear that Jesus sent the apostles away before He dismissed the crowd. Why do you think He did so? Where did Jesus go after they all left? Why? What lessons do you learn from His example?

16. The apostles had obediently followed Jesus’s command, yet they found themselves in a raging storm on the sea. What lessons do you learn about how God trains His people?

17. From Matthew, what lessons do you learn from Peter's faith? His unbelief? Jesus's response to Peter?

18. Share a time when Jesus used a storm as the very path to draw you closer to Him.

JESUS the BREAD OF LIFE

How has this lesson impacted your thinking regarding "*Heaven's Bread?*" What worthless "*foods*" are you feeding on in hopes of satisfying the spiritual hunger in your heart? What are some specific ways you can feed on Jesus, the Bread of Life this week? With whom might He be calling you to share the "*meal*" with?

SALVATION QUESTION

Have you ever come to Jesus for deliverance from the "*stormy sea*" of sin in your life? If not, will you come to Him today and ask Him to rescue you from the great peril that leads to eternal destruction? If you will, He will immediately come into your heart and save you, and He will deliver you safely to the eternal Shore of heaven.