



Bread Of Life | Doug Wekenman | 03.02.2024
Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

What's the best bread you've ever had in your life?

If you could relive one day of your life, which day would it be and why?

How has God been speaking to you or teaching you during the first two months of 2024?

GROW

Welcome to week one of our new series, "*I Am*." Here at Red Rocks Church, we are so incredibly passionate about living on purpose and changing the world. But to do that, we must recognize the importance of knowing God first. Understanding who God is helps us understand ourselves better, and the more we know ourselves, the better we can live out the purpose He has for us. The more we know God individually, the better we can change the world collectively.

Over the next seven weeks, we'll be diving into the Gospel of John and taking a look at the seven "I Am" statements that Jesus made, starting with the first one: "*I Am The Bread Of Life*," found in John 6:35. In this statement, Doug focused on our tendency to seek out provision and satisfaction through worldly things that were never designed to fulfill the things our souls long for

the most. If our desire is for the provision, we will always live in fear of not having enough. But if our desire is for the provider and we seek first His kingdom, our faith in the provider won't just lead to the kind of provision that is just enough, but the kind of provision and satisfaction beyond anything we could ever imagine.

Read John 6:35 NIV, Ephesians 3:16-20 NIV

What are your biggest takeaways from Doug's message and John 6:35?

What sustains you when you're in need? Are your eyes on the provision or the provider when things get tough? Explain.

How does Ephesians 3:16-20 speak towards Jesus being the bread of life?

Is there an area of your life where you've been waiting/praying for God's provision? If so, have you also been inviting His presence and guidance into that situation? Explain.

M O V E

When it comes to provision, there is a tension between being a faithful steward of what has been entrusted to us, and at the same time, being open-handed and obedient in allowing God to have His way with those things. Doing both well is like holding a wet bar of soap. Hold it too loosely, and it falls out of our hands. This is what happened to the prodigal son in Luke 15. He squandered the abundant provision from his father because he held his riches too loosely. On the flip side, if we death grip what's been given to us and allow fear, ego, and pride to guide how we steward what we've been given, it shoots out of our hands. This is what happened to the disobedient servant in Matthew 25, whose only bag of gold was taken from him because he held it too tightly out of fear of losing what little he had.

The only way for God to provide more than enough, Doug mentions, is for us to give him what we have. He cannot multiply what we aren't willing to place in his hands. The boy in John 6 was faithfully stewarding what little food he had for his family to the best of his ability but also had the faith and openhandedness to give Jesus the five loaves of bread and two fish, fully trusting that

He was about to do immeasurably more than anyone could ever imagine. And once we've given Him what we have, and He returns more than we need, our hope is that you faithfully steward those blessings by building longer tables, not higher fences. The things you try to protect in this world will rust, rot, and fade away, but the impact you make in the lives of others through your kindness, generosity, and love is the bread of life—the living water Jesus talked about that gives us life, and life to the full here and now, as we live on purpose and change the world together.

Read John 6:5-13 NIV, Matthew 25:28-30 NIV, John 6:27

What are your big takeaways from this section?

Have you ever held onto something too loose or too tight and lost it? Explain.

What would it look like for you to “give what you have” and “do what you know” in this season of life?

How can we ensure that we are seeking satisfaction and provision through a relationship with Jesus rather than worldly possessions or personal effort?

In what ways has Jesus been the bread of life for you personally?

P R A Y

A prayer from *the Pursuit of God*, by A.W. Tozer

God, I have tasted your goodness, it has satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. God, the Triune God, I want to want you; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me your glory, I pray, that I may know you indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.” Then give me the grace to rise and follow you up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

RESOURCES

At Red Rocks Church, we're passionate about living on purpose and changing the world, but the starting point is knowing God. Because when you know who God is, you'll know who you are...and when you know who you are, you'll know what to do.

So, the question is: Who is He?

Join us for 5-10 minutes each morning over the next seven weeks as we dive into our *I Am Devotional* to learn more about God, who we are, and how we can partner with Him as we live on purpose and change the world. You can find the devotional on the Red Rocks Church App, or at the website below. Enjoy! <https://my.redrockschurch.com/iamdevo/landing>