

JESUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adapted from *Jesus in the Spotlight* by Kay Arthur with Cyndy Shearer

KEY PASSAGE: John 6:41-71

FOCUS: Jesus is the Bread of Life

MEMORY VERSE: John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Sandwich Relay

You will need the following:

- *Fake food, provided*

1. You need to pre-select enough play food and dishes to form a "meal" for two teams. Make sure that each "meal" has the exact same number of pieces. The goal of the game is for each team to set the table with a complete meal.
2. Divide class into two teams.
3. Put fake food/dishes into baskets across the room.
4. When you say GO, one person from each team will run to get an item from their basket and run back to put it on their team's table.
5. Then the next child in line will run to get another item and place it on the table. Continue until one team finishes their place setting.

SAY THE FOLLOWING: Great job setting the table for our meals! I'm getting hungry just looking at these yummy foods. Do you all like to eat? I know I do! Jesus knows that we need to eat food everyday so He used food as a picture for believing in Him. Let's pray and then we'll get into the Bible.

Prayer

Whenever we study God's Word, we need to start with prayer. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we'll understand and believe this. Let's pray together. **Pray with students. Pray for their prayer requests too.**

LESSON

(Note to teacher: Read/teach the lesson to the students; be sure to allow them enough time to look up verses and engage with the Scripture independently. Each student should have the printed Scripture and colored pencils. Write the key words/symbols on the whiteboard before class..)

I. The Introduction

You will need the following:

- *Various household supplies*
- *Snack*

I want you to imagine that you're hungry--you haven't eaten anything for two days! How would you feel? **Allow students to answer** I might feel dizzy and sick if I hadn't eaten for two days. Well, I have good news for

you--I brought you something to eat! *(Pull out household object, like a wrench--definitely NOT food.)* Oh, what's the matter? This won't make you feel better? Then how about this? *(Pull out another non-food item)*. Mmm, this sure looks yummy to me! Do you want to try a bite? No? Then what do you want to eat? This? *(Continue pulling out non-edible items)* You children sure are picky eaters! You haven't wanted to eat anything I brought. Then I guess that you don't want this either....*(Pull out a snack item)* Oh you do! Why do you want to eat this? *Allow students to answer* Yes, it's because this is food! When we are hungry, the only thing that will satisfy our tummies is food.

II. Bible Passage

Our tummies have all been hungry at some time. But there's another kind of hunger that we all have. Our hearts are hungry too. But when our hearts are hungry, most of the time we try to feed them the wrong things. We try to feed our hearts with more toys, or with adventures, or with friends and family. But these aren't the food that our hearts need. That's like trying to eat a *(name an object you pulled out earlier)* when your tummy is hungry. It's not real food and it won't satisfy your hunger.

The crowds that were following Jesus had hungry hearts too. They thought that eating more real bread or having a different government or being in charge would make them happy. But Jesus knew that those things wouldn't satisfy them. When we read our Bible passage today, I want you to listen for the KEY WORD-BREAD. *Rub stomach when you say the word bread.* When you hear me read "bread", rub your tummies.

Listen to John 6:48-51

"I am the **bread** of life. **49** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. **50** But here is the **bread** that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. **51** 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."

Our hearts are hungry because of our sin-the things that we do wrong. Jesus knew this; that's why He came to earth! Jesus told the crowds that He was going to pay the punishment for their sins--die for them. And whoever believed would have eternal life. Jesus says that believing in Him is like eating a bread that fills you up forever! Even though our bodies will die someday, our hearts (spirit) will live forever with Jesus. Jesus is the only "food" that will satisfy our hungry hearts. Do you believe this?

Sadly, many people in the crowd did not believe Jesus. They grumbled and argued and eventually left Him. Jesus looked at his 12 disciples and asked them, "Will you also leave?" One of the disciples, Peter, said, "Where else can we go, Lord? You have the words of eternal life." Only Jesus gives eternal life.

APPLICATION:

Not everyone who dies will go to heaven and have eternal life. If you die not believing Jesus, you will have eternal death in Hell.

But Jesus is the bread of life. Believe in Him and you will have eternal life in Heaven, with Him!

VI. MEMORY VERSE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhRB6MxIEnQ>