

# Small Group Study Guide

I Am the Bread of Life

John 6

## Introduction

Bread was a daily necessity in Jesus' time, making His statement deeply personal and essential to His audience. Jesus is the only true source of lasting satisfaction, eternal life, and ultimate fulfillment. When we feed on Him, we are sustained both now and forever.

## Opening Discussion

What's your go-to for comfort food?

Why do you think food and satisfaction are so closely tied together in our lives?

## Jesus Is the True Source of Satisfaction

Read John 6:35

1. Why did Jesus call Himself bread?
2. How do people today try to fill spiritual hunger with temporary things?
3. How has Jesus satisfied your soul?

## Jesus Offers Eternal Life, Not Just Temporary Relief

Read John 6:48–51

1. How does Jesus contrast Himself with the manna in the wilderness?
2. What's the difference between physical provision and eternal provision?
3. What does it mean to “feed on” Jesus?

## Responding to the Bread of Life

Read John 6:66–69

1. Why did many leave after Jesus' hard teaching?
2. What makes following Jesus difficult today?
3. How can Peter's words encourage us when faith feels challenging?

## Gospel Connection:

- Jesus gave His body to be broken for us (John 6:51; Luke 22:19).
- By faith, we partake in the life He offers, receiving true and lasting nourishment.
- Communion reminds us of this eternal provision.

## Weekly Challenge

Each day this week, reflect: “What is my soul feeding on today?”

Share with someone what Jesus as the Bread of Life means to you.

## Closing Prayer

Thank God for Jesus, the true bread. Ask for help to hunger more for Christ than for anything the world offers. Pray for endurance when following Jesus is hard.



## **Leader Notes: "I Am the Bread of Life"**

### **John 6**

#### **Goal**

Help the group understand that only Jesus satisfies the deepest needs of the soul, contrasting temporary cultural "bread" with the eternal sustenance of Christ.

#### **Opening Setup**

Give everyone a chance to share an experience with comfort food to break the ice.

**Transition:** "Just like physical food satisfies our bodies, Jesus teaches that only He can satisfy our souls. Let's explore that together."

#### **Key Context for Leaders**

**Bread Symbolism:** Central to daily life and survival in Jesus' culture; His audience would hear "bread" as essential, not optional.

**Manna Connection:** Just as God provided daily manna in the wilderness, Jesus is the ultimate, eternal provision.

**Hard Teachings:** Many left Jesus when His teaching required deep faith, showing us that following Him is not always easy, but always worth it.

#### **Helpful Cross-References**

**Exodus 16** – Manna in the wilderness.

**Matthew 4:4** – "Man shall not live by bread alone..."

**Luke 22:19** – Jesus giving His body in the Last Supper.

**Isaiah 55:2** – "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread?"

#### **Discussion Guidance**

Encourage vulnerability. People may share areas where they're "feeding" on the wrong things—career, relationships, pleasure, success. Lead them gently back to the sufficiency of Christ.

#### **Common Cultural "Bread" Examples to Offer**

Consumerism and materialism.

Seeking identity through career or status.

Using relationships or achievements for fulfillment.

Pursuing constant entertainment or distraction.

**Gospel Tie-In.** Help the group see...

Jesus didn't come just to meet physical needs but to satisfy eternal ones.

The bread He offers is His very life, given on the cross.

Communion is a beautiful, ongoing symbol of this reality.

#### **Prayer Time Tips**

Invite people to silently reflect on what they've been "feeding on" lately.

Provide space for personal confession and renewal.

Close with a prayer focusing on dependence on Christ.

**Follow-Up Idea:** Encourage participants to check in with one another during the week about what they are turning to for satisfaction. You could start a group text or chat for midweek encouragement.



# Small Group Study Guide

The Light of the World

*John 8:12*

## Opening Discussion

Share a time when you experienced total darkness (e.g., a power outage, a cave, or nighttime in the wilderness). How did you feel, and what difference did light make?

## Introduction

Light is essential for life—it gives direction, clarity, and security. In John 8:12, Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world.” This study explores what that means for us and how we can live in His light.

## Jesus as the Light of the World

*Read John 8:12*

1. Why does Jesus use the metaphor of light to describe Himself?
2. What does it mean to “not walk in darkness” if we follow Him?
3. How does Jesus, as the Light, contrast with the darkness in the world?

## Light vs. Darkness in Scripture

*Read John 1:4-5 and Ephesians 5:8-9*

1. What does it mean that “darkness has not overcome” Jesus’ light?
2. How does Paul describe our transformation from darkness to light?
3. What are practical ways we can “walk as children of light” in our daily lives?

## Reflecting His Light

*Read Matthew 5:14-16*

1. According to Jesus’s command here, why does He tell us to let our light shine?
2. If people are going to glorify God as a result of seeing our good works, what do those good works involve?
3. What are some ways we might unintentionally “hide” our light?
4. How can we balance humility with boldly shining for Christ?

## Prayer

Thank God for revealing His light through Jesus. Confess areas where you have allowed darkness to influence your thinking or actions. Ask for boldness to shine His light in your relationships, workplace, and community.

## Weekly Challenge

Each day this week, reflect on a passage about Jesus as the Light (John 8:12, John 1:4-5, Matthew 5:14-16).

Find one way to be a light to someone—through encouragement, sharing your faith, or acts of service.

Pray for someone in darkness to come to know the Light of Christ.



## Group Leader Guide

The Light of the World

*John 8:12*

### Supporting Passages

- John 1:4-5 – Jesus as the light shining in darkness.
- Matthew 5:14-16 – Our call to reflect His light.
- Ephesians 5:8-9 – Living as children of light.
- Psalm 27:1 – The Lord as our light and salvation.

### Goal of the Study

Help participants understand what Jesus meant by “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).

Encourage personal reflection on how His light transforms our lives.

Equip believers to reflect Jesus’ light to others in their daily interactions.

### Opening Discussion

#### Icebreaker

Ask: “Share a time when you experienced total darkness (like a blackout or being in a cave). How did you feel, and how did light change the situation?”

Transition: “Just like physical light changes how we see and navigate, Jesus changes how we live, think, and relate to the world.”

#### Leader Tip

- Keep this lighthearted—participants might have funny or memorable experiences to share.
- Segue into how Jesus brings spiritual clarity and transformation.

### Background on John 8

#### Key Context for Leaders

This statement (“I am the light of the world”) happens during the Feast of Tabernacles, where large torches were lit in the temple, symbolizing God’s presence and guidance (pillar of fire in Exodus 13:21).

Jesus is contrasting Himself with temporary light—He is the true, eternal light that never fades.

### Introduction

Light is essential for life—it gives direction, clarity, and security. In John 8:12, Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world.” This study explores what that means for us and how we can live in His light.

#### Leader Tip

Encourage discussion, but keep it focused.



If people seem hesitant, rephrase the question in a personal way: “What do you think Jesus meant by ‘light of life’?”

## **Scripture Reading & Discussion**

### **Jesus as the Light of the World**

*Read John 8:12*

1. Why does Jesus use light to describe Himself?
2. What does it mean to “not walk in darkness” if we follow Him?
3. How does Jesus, as the Light, contrast with the darkness in the world?
4. Have you experienced a time when Jesus brought clarity or direction into your life?

#### **Leader Tip**

Bring out the contrast: Jesus offers true illumination, purpose, and life, while the world offers temporary distractions.

Some answers may touch on career, relationships, entertainment, or success as things people chase instead of Christ.

### **Light vs. Darkness in Scripture**

*Read John 1:4-5 and Ephesians 5:8-9*

1. What does it mean that “darkness has not overcome” Jesus’ light?
2. How does Paul describe our transformation from darkness to light?
3. What are practical ways we can “walk as children of light” in our daily lives?

#### **Leader Tip**

Help people connect their faith to real life. Ask: “What does walking in darkness look like in today’s world?” (Examples: dishonesty, selfishness, immorality, etc.).

Emphasize the permanence of Jesus’ light—darkness cannot defeat Him.

### **Reflecting His Light to Others**

*Read Matthew 5:14-16*

1. According to Jesus’s command here, why does He tell us to let our light shine?
2. If people are going to glorify God as a result of seeing our good works, what do those good works involve?
3. What are some ways we might unintentionally “hide” our light?
4. How can we balance humility with boldly shining for Christ?

#### **Leader Tip**

Let people brainstorm practical examples: Being kind, sharing truth, serving, standing firm in faith, etc. If people are going to glorify God, our good works must be accompanied with the gospel.

Acknowledge challenges (fear of judgment, cultural opposition) and point to the Holy Spirit as our strength.



## **Gospel Connection**

Jesus IS the light—not just a source of light, but THE Light that overcomes darkness (John 1:4-5).

On the cross, darkness fell (Mark 15:33), symbolizing the weight of sin—yet Jesus' resurrection proves light conquers darkness forever.

When we trust in Jesus, we move from darkness to light (Colossians 1:13).

### **Leader Tip**

Summarize: “Following Jesus isn’t just about believing something—it’s about living in His light every day.”

## **Prayer Prompts**

Thank God for revealing His light through Jesus.

Confess areas where we have walked in darkness or hidden our light.

Ask for boldness to reflect Jesus in daily life.

### **Leader Tip**

If the group is comfortable, have each person pray a short prayer.

Otherwise, close in a collective prayer, asking God to help each person shine for Him.

## **Weekly Challenge**

Daily Reflection: Each day this week, ask yourself, “What is my soul feeding on today? Am I walking in the light?”

Intentional Outreach: Share the light of Christ this week—through kindness, sharing Scripture, or speaking encouragement.

Pray for Someone in Darkness: Lift up a friend, family member, or coworker who needs Jesus’ light.

## **Closing Thought**

Jesus is the Light that never fades. We are called to walk in His light and reflect it to a world in darkness.

### **Encouragement for the Group**

“No matter how dark the world seems, Jesus’ light is always stronger. Let’s commit to being His light-bearers this week.”

## **Final Leader Encouragement**

Be flexible! Allow room for discussion but gently redirect if needed. Make sure everyone leaves with a clear understanding of Jesus as the Light and a personal way to apply the lesson.



## Small Group Study Guide

I Am the Door

John 10:9

### Opening Discussion

Have you ever accidentally walked through the wrong door? What happened?

### Jesus as the Only Door to Salvation

*Read John 10:9*

1. What does it mean that Jesus is “the door” rather than “a door”?
2. How does this contrast with the idea that “all paths lead to God”?
3. What does “he will be saved” mean?

### Jesus as the Door to Security & Protection

*Read John 10:1-3 and Psalm 23:1-3*

1. How does Jesus, as the door, protect us from harm?
2. What does it mean that He “calls His sheep by name”?
3. How does following Jesus’ voice keep us safe from deception?

### Jesus as the Door to Abundant Life

*Read John 10:10*

1. What does abundant life mean?
2. How does Jesus provide fullness of life beyond just “getting into heaven”?
3. What are some false doors people try to enter through (e.g., success, popularity, relationships, achievements)?

### Application Questions

1. Have you personally entered through Jesus, or are you standing outside the door?
2. What are some “voices” competing for your attention instead of Jesus?
3. Are you living in the abundant life Jesus offers, or are you trying to sneak in through another door?



## **Gospel Connection**

- Jesus is the only way to salvation—no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).
- He laid down His life so that we could enter into true life (John 10:11).
- We don't just get saved—we are also led, protected, and given life to the fullest in Him.

## **Prayer Time**

Thank God that Jesus is the door to life, security, and salvation. Confess areas where you've tried to enter through false doors. Ask for clarity to hear Jesus' voice and follow Him fully.

## **Weekly Challenge & Next Steps**

**Daily Reflection:** Each day, read one of the passages from John 10 and reflect on what it means for Jesus to be the door.

**Memorize** John 10:9 and pray for opportunities to share this truth with someone.

**Evaluate your “doors”:** What are some ways you've sought security or satisfaction apart from Jesus?





# Small Group Guide (Participant Guide)

## I Am the Good Shepherd

(John 10:11-18, ESV)

### Key Verse

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* — John 10:11 (ESV)

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### 1. Opening Reflection

- Have you ever had to care for an animal or been responsible for someone's safety? What did that responsibility feel like?
  - How does thinking about Jesus as a shepherd caring for His sheep shape your understanding of His love?
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### 2. Scripture Reading

Read **John 10:11-18 (ESV)** and consider the following questions:

#### A. Jesus' Sacrifice as the Good Shepherd

- What stands out to you about Jesus' willingness to lay down His life for the sheep?
- How is this different from the hired hand's response when danger comes?
- How does knowing Jesus made this sacrifice for you personally impact your view of His love?

#### B. Knowing and Being Known by the Shepherd

- What does it mean for Jesus to know you fully and still love you?
- How can we become more familiar with the voice of the Good Shepherd?



### C. The Mission of the Shepherd

- Jesus speaks of “other sheep” (verse 16). How does this expand our understanding of God’s heart for all people?
- How can you be part of sharing the message of the Good Shepherd with others?

### D. Trusting the Good Shepherd

- In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust Jesus as your Shepherd?
  - How does Jesus’ leadership provide security and guidance when life feels uncertain?
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## 3. Application

- What is one area of your life where you need to trust Jesus as your Shepherd?
  - How can you listen more attentively for His guidance this week?
  - Who can you pray for or reach out to with the love of Christ?
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## 4. Prayer Time

- Thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for you.
  - Ask for help in recognizing His voice and following Him.
  - Pray for others who need to know His love and care.
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### Memory Verse for the Week

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” — John 10:11 (ESV)*

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**Challenge:** Reflect on the ways Jesus has cared for you as a Good Shepherd this week and consider sharing your experience with someone else.



## Small Group Study - Participant Guide

I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

*John 14:1-6*

### Introduction

John 14, Jesus speaks words of peace and assurance during a time of deep anxiety for His disciples. His declaration, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," offers not just comfort, but clarity and conviction about who He is.

### Opening Discussion

Share a time when you felt completely lost—either physically or emotionally. What helped you find your way again?

### Discussion Questions

#### Jesus Calms Troubled Hearts

*Read John 14:1*

- What fears or troubles are you carrying today?
- How can trusting Jesus change your perspective?

#### Jesus Prepares a Place

*Read John 14:2-3*

- How does it feel to know Jesus is preparing a place specifically for you?
- What hope does that give you about the future?

#### Thomas' Question

*Read John 14:4-5*

- Why do you think Thomas felt the need to ask Jesus this question?
- Have you ever felt uncertain about your faith or God's direction? How did you respond?

#### Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

*Read John 14:6*

- What do each of these mean to you personally?
  - The Way: How has Jesus guided your path?
  - The Truth: How has His truth helped you in uncertain moments?
  - The Life: What does it mean to live fully in Jesus?



- Why is it important that Jesus says no one comes to the Father except through Him?
- How would you explain this truth lovingly to someone with different beliefs?

### **Application and Reflection**

- Where do you need Jesus to calm your heart right now?
- Are there areas of your life where you are seeking direction, truth, or fulfillment apart from Him?
- How can you gently and clearly share this truth with someone who is searching?

### **Prayer**

- Thank Jesus for being the only way to the Father.
- Ask for peace in troubled areas of life.
- Pray for someone you know who is searching for direction or truth.

### **Weekly Challenge**

This week, read John 14 each day and reflect on one aspect of Jesus' identity (Way, Truth, Life). Share what you learn with a friend.



## Small Group Study - Participant Guide

I Am the True Vine

*John 15:1-11*

### Opening Discussion

Think of something you've tried to keep alive—a plant, garden, or pet. What made it thrive or struggle?

### Introduction

In John 15, Jesus gives us an image of a living relationship. Like branches depend on a vine for life, we are invited to stay closely connected to Him to grow and thrive. Abiding in Jesus is more than a one-time decision—it's a daily, ongoing connection. In this relationship, we experience God's loving care, spiritual fruitfulness, and a joy that cannot be found anywhere else.

### Helpful Notes

The "vine" is a symbol of God's people in the Bible. Jesus calls Himself the true vine to show He is the source of real, lasting life.

"Pruning" may feel uncomfortable, but it's a sign that God is helping you grow.

"Abiding" means staying close to Jesus through trust, obedience, prayer, and His Word.

The more we abide, the more our lives reflect Jesus—and that's how we bear fruit.

### Discussion and Reflection Questions

#### Jesus the True Vine

*Read John 15:1-2*

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the true vine?
2. What role does the Father play in our spiritual growth?
3. How does God "prune" us, and why is pruning necessary?

#### Abiding and Growth

*Read John 15:3-6*

1. What does "abide in me" mean to you personally?
2. What happens when we try to bear fruit apart from Jesus?
3. How do you know you are abiding in Christ?



## **Prayer and Fruitfulness**

*Read John 15:7-8*

1. How does abiding in Jesus affect the way we pray?
2. What does it mean to bear fruit that glorifies God?

## **Love, Obedience, and Joy**

*Read John 15:9-11*

1. How are love and obedience connected in this passage?
2. How does abiding in Jesus lead to joy? Have you experienced this?

## **Personal Application**

- Where might God be pruning you right now?
- What spiritual habit helps you stay connected to Jesus?
- What fruit do you hope to see grow in your life this week?

## **Prayer**

- That you would remain in Christ throughout your week.
- That you would be willing to let God prune distractions or sin.
- That your life would bear fruit that brings God glory.

## **This Week's Challenge**

Each day this week, spend time intentionally “abiding” in Christ through prayer, Scripture reading, or worship. Journal any signs of growth, change, or the joy you experience.

