

# GIMME GOD!

## Church Service Packet

### Bread

John 6:48-51  
Exodus 16:11-16

© 2010 Genesis Road  
All rights reserved.

To the purchaser, permission is granted to reproduce this material by necessary means for the sole purpose of his/her regular, weekly church service. Reproducing or transmitting any part of this publication for any other use is prohibited without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Welcome to the Gimme God! Worship Service. We have tried to make these resources as easy to use as possible. The sermons and prayers have been formatted with plenty of space to write in between the lines. Please feel free to make changes that will be most appropriate for your church.

To print the children's bulletin for ages 3 to 6, copy pages 19 and 20 onto sheets of 8.5 x 11 paper (double-sided) and fold. To print the children's bulletin for ages 7 to 12, copy pages 21 and 22 onto sheets of 8.5 x 11 paper (double-sided) and fold. **[Important Note: When printing children's bulletins, in the "Print" dialog box, please make sure you have the "Page Scaling" option set to NONE. Do not "fit" or "shrink" to fit the printable area. Feel free to contact us if you have problems printing.]**

We welcome your feedback! Please visit our website or send an email to [info@genesisroad.com](mailto:info@genesisroad.com) and give us your suggestions, comments, and ideas.

© 2010 Genesis Road  
All rights reserved.

To the purchaser, permission is granted to reproduce this material by necessary means for the sole purpose of his/her regular, weekly church service. Reproducing or transmitting any part of this publication for any other use is prohibited without the prior written permission of the publisher.

# Sermon

Many years ago, in *Insight* magazine, there was a parable about a family who fell on hard times. So they decided to pray to God for help. And every night, when they prayed for food, their prayers were interrupted by a knock at the door. And each night, on the porch, there was a box containing a yellow rock.

After a few days, the father became bitter. “We ask the Lord for bread and He gives us stones instead.”

Finally, they gave up on God and waited to die. Fortunately, someone stopped by to check on them just before they perished and the family was rushed to the hospital. Back at the house, an astonished police detective wandered through the house, looking at all the yellow stones, and exclaimed, “These people were starving to death while their house is full of pure gold!”

## God Provides Supernaturally

If there’s anything we can learn from the reading we heard from Exodus today, it’s this: while God provides for our needs, He usually does it in a surprising way. In fact, when you think back over the events of the Bible, *whenever* God works in a situation, He never does so in a natural way, but a supernatural way.

Have you ever thought about that? When the Israelites were in danger, He parted the Red Sea

so they could walk through to the other side. When they were thirsty, He brought water out of a rock. When they needed bread, He made it appear on the ground like the dew. He closed the mouths of lions for Daniel and protected the Hebrew boys who were thrown alive into a furnace. When God intervenes in our life, we see the supernatural!

Because of this, however, it might be easy for us to have a blind spot to what God is doing. After all, like the hungry people in our story, we look for God to meet our needs in *natural* ways. But God is a supernatural provider. He is likely going to work in ways that we don't expect, ways that we can't imagine. This means that, no matter what situation we find ourselves in, we can trust God to provide for every need.

## **God Provides For Every Need**

What need did the Israelites have in the wilderness that God did not provide for? Can you imagine this multitude of homeless people wandering around in a desert? They had no resources. They had no discipline. And they had very little civility. Yet, God provided for their every need.

They were hungry, and God fed them. They were thirsty, and God provided water for them. The sun beat down on them during the day, and God sheltered them with the pillar of cloud. And during the night when the temperature dropped, God warmed them with the pillar of fire.

And all the while they were in the desert, God was not provided for their physical needs, but He provided for their spiritual needs as well. He kept reminding them of His promise to be good

to them, to bring them to the Promised Land. He spoke tenderly, reminding them that they were not forgotten or abandoned. When He needed to raise His voice to get their attention, He did that, too. And in the desert, He designed a system of sacrifices for them to help them understand that they were forgiven. By doing that, God was trying to provide for their *spiritual* hunger as well as their *physical* hunger.

As our Provider, God is most interested in providing for our spiritual needs. That's what He's ultimately concerned with. In today's reading from John, Jesus starts off by saying, "You are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life."

## **Spiritual Versus Physical**

Here we see that God wants us to be more concerned with our spiritual hunger than with our physical hunger. Providing for our physical needs is easy for God. He has complete control over nature. He can do anything He wants in this realm. We serve a God who can part oceans, make the sun stand still, and multiply food for 5000 people out of a small boy's lunch. God is not limited in supplying our physical needs.

But God *can* be limited in supplying our spiritual needs. That's because meeting our spiritual needs happens in the context of a relationship, and it takes *two* people to have a relationship. On God's side of the relationship, there is no obstacle. There is no barrier. He is always willing, always

open. But we *do* have the power to limit God in addressing our spiritual needs by limiting the openness of our relationship with Him. If we close the door to God, if we decide that we're not going to participate in a relationship with Him, what can God do? He's not going to force us to love and accept Him.

This is why God is infinitely more concerned with our spiritual wellbeing than with our physical wellbeing. It's because He doesn't have complete control over our spiritual wellbeing—we have the power to stop His spiritual work in our lives. And often, at least on this sinful earth, the irony is that when all of our physical needs are met, our spiritual lives may suffer.

In Revelation 3, God speaks to the church of Laodicea:

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.<sup>1</sup>

What God was saying to the Laodiceans was that their physical comforts had blinded them to the fact that they were living in spiritual poverty. And this is why, when Jesus was here, He often linked his physical miracles to spiritual lessons. In feeding the 5000, Jesus wasn't opening up a soup

kitchen. He was providing for the physical needs of the people so they could stay there and continue to receive the spiritual food He had been giving to them. But it was the spiritual food that was most important.

And more than once, when Jesus healed a person's physical disease, He linked it to the forgiveness of their sins. But it was the spiritual healing that was most important. What He was saying, in effect, was, "I want you to know that, with Me, the healing doesn't end on the physical level. You can be spiritually whole as well."

So, when Jesus says, "I am the bread of life," if all we care about is making sure we never hear our stomach growl, we are going to miss out on the biggest and best blessings God has to offer. For the food He wants to give us is not only physical . . . I would say it's not even *primarily* physical.

God is interested in giving us spiritual food. He is interested in feeding the gnawing spiritual hunger that eats away at the inside. This is a hunger that can't be touched by anything or anyone else. As David said in Psalm 145, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food."<sup>2</sup> This is the spiritual hunger that only God can fill, the hunger that He is more than able to fill, and the hunger that He desperately wants to fill.

## **God, the Basics of Existence**

In the world of marketing, it is important to put a strong image into the heads of consumers so that when they see or think about this image, they associate it with your product. And God is a

master marketer. He has “imaged” Himself as the basics, the necessities of our very existence. He says, “I am light, life, daily bread, and living water.” When it comes to the basics of living, what else is there? God wants us to know that it is only *in Him* that we find the provision for our every need.

When we choose to recognize that God is the provider of both our physical and spiritual needs, and when we trust Him to meet our needs in His way and in His time, we will enter into an incredible and exhilarating journey. If we’re used to trying to have control over our lives and circumstances, it might even be a frightening journey at first, but how could we ever hope to provide for our needs in a better way than the One who created us, who intimately knows us, and who loves us even more than we love ourselves?

It’s easy sometimes to look back at the Israelites in the wilderness and wonder, how could they have doubted God? How could they have ever wanted to go back to the slavery of Egypt? But before we’re too quick to judge, let’s walk one day in their sandals.

Jesus helps us get started with that by teaching us, in the Lord’s Prayer, to ask for our daily bread. That means He wants us to recognize that, as the Bread of Life, He IS the daily bread. He wants us to know that He is our daily provider and to trust His provision instead of worrying.

## **Daily Bread**

Dale Carnegie talks about this in his book, *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*. He writes:



Remember that the Lord's prayer asks only for *today's* bread. It doesn't complain about the stale bread we had to eat yesterday; and it doesn't say: "Oh, God, it has been pretty dry out in the wheat belt lately and we may have another drought—and then how will I get bread to eat next fall—or suppose I lose my job—oh, God, how could I get bread then?" No, this prayer teaches us to ask for *today's* bread only. Today's bread is the only kind of bread you can possibly eat.<sup>3</sup>

That last sentence is really worth considering for a moment. Today's bread is the **ONLY** kind of bread you can possibly eat. Think about that. Yesterday is gone. We don't live in yesterday, so we can't possibly eat yesterday's bread. And tomorrow is really only something that exists in our minds. We don't live in tomorrow, so we can't possibly eat tomorrow's bread.

This is why God asks us to give our entire attention to what He is doing today, in this moment. We can't do anything about yesterday, and we can't do anything about tomorrow. All we have is today. And today, this moment, is when God is present with us, relating to us, providing for us. To live in yesterday or tomorrow is to ignore the only time when we can experience God's presence.

Today's bread is the only kind of bread we can possibly eat. Jesus says that *He* is that bread, and He invites us to come to Him, to rest, and to find that He will satisfy our hunger. Instead of worry-

ing about what we ate yesterday or what we'll eat tomorrow, let's rest and receive what Jesus has to offer right now. And instead of boxing God into our idea of how He should provide for our needs, let's rest and open our eyes to marvel at all the supernatural ways He can provide for our needs.

Let's not sit around today feeling neglected and abandoned, hungry and starving, while we are surrounded by gold. Instead, let's recognize that we are in the presence of Almighty God and enjoy today the daily bread He has provided for us.

- 
1. Revelation 3:15-17, NIV
  2. Psalm 145:15, NIV
  3. *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, p5.

# Prayers, Etc.

## **INVOCATION**

Great Provider God, the eyes of all look to You, and You feed them. Once again, we are hungry for You. We invite Your nourishing presence to fill us and refresh us. Amen.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord is bread for the hungry heart. The Lord is water for the thirsty soul. As we come into His presence today, He will satisfy our deepest desires. Oh come, let us worship the Lord.

## **PARTICIPATORY PRAYER** *(may be spoken together with the congregation)*

Great Provider, You alone can feed our hunger. We are hungry for Your mercy. Your grace will restore our hearts. We are hungry for Your love. Your compassion will refresh our minds. And we are hungry for Your forgiveness. Your pardon will renew us and free us. As we give you our cares, worries, and concerns, grant us the peace that passes understanding. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE** *(may be spoken by pastor after the Participatory Prayer)*

Jesus taught us to pray for daily bread. Today, He comes to us again as the provider of our daily needs. Because of the testimony of Jesus, we know that we are loved, accepted, forgiven, and cared for. Praise God for His wonderful and marvelous love! Amen.

## **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

After Jesus said, "I am the bread," He laid down His life for us. In the Upper Room, He said, "This is My body, broken for You." In the Kingdom of God, self-sacrifice and provision go hand in hand. Every good gift we enjoy in life comes from the generous hand of this humble, self-sacrificing God. As we have the opportunity to give back to Him today, let us praise Him with our whole lives—our minds, our hearts, our time, our money, and our talents. He will take what we bring and multiply it for the sake of the Gospel. Today's offering is for . . . *(omit if your offering is not specially designated)*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Lord, our Provider, thank You for setting the example of outrageous generosity. You give to all—those who love You and those who don't. You shower blessings on everyone—the righteous and the wicked. Thank You for teaching us how to give, and thank You for accepting these gifts.

Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Great Bread of Life, when Your creatures are hungry, You provide. You don't rely on third-party sustenance. You send Yourself to fill the hunger of Your children. In Your great love, You offered Your own body to be broken as bread, to feed us the knowledge of the Father's love and forgiveness.

As bread, You invite us to take You into our lives and to let You nourish every part of our existence. As food becomes part of us when we eat, You ask that we allow You access to every area of our lives so that we may be one in You as You are one with the Father.

We humbly bow before You this morning, acknowledging Your provision in our lives. You care for us. You hear us. You love us. Because we know these things, we bring our concerns before You now. **[insert the specific needs of your congregation here]**

May we choose to feast on You today and find new, abundant life. Nourish us, feed us, and fill us up with Your goodness. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

And now, may the Bread of Life and the Living Water fill you up with good things until your cup overflows abundantly! Amen.

# Children's Story

*Method: Conversation/ Story*

*Purpose: To help children understand how God provides for us.*

Good morning, boys and girls. Today, I want to talk to you about how God provides for us. But first, I need to ask you a question:

How many of you have ever seen a really tall building?

Tall buildings are all over the place! Especially when you go into a big city, you see tons of them. We call them skyscrapers, because they're so high, they scrape the sky! But even houses look like big buildings to us.

So, I need your help to think about something this morning.

Let's say we wanted to knock down a really tall building. How could we do it?

*[Give time for kids to answer. Possible suggestions: blow it up with dynamite, knock it down with a crane, send a tornado, fly a plane into it, a large earthquake could topple it.]*

Those are some really great suggestions!

Well, the story I want to tell you about is a story of when God brought down some tall walls. You've probably heard the story in Sabbath School. It's the story about the Walls of Jericho.

God was bringing the Israelites into the Promised Land, but they came to a town called Jericho. And this town had tall walls that were all locked up because the people inside were afraid of the Israelites. So God needed to find a way to knock down the walls of the city.

So, what do you think God did?

Did He rent a crane to knock down the walls of Jericho? *No*.

Did He get some dynamite and blow up the walls of Jericho? *No*.

Do you remember what the Bible says? How did God bring down the walls of Jericho? He told the people to march around the city seven times, and after they marched around seven times, they were supposed to play a musical shout on the trumpet. And then, God said, the walls would just fall down.

Can you believe that?

What if I told you that, right now, we were going to get up and go outside. And if we marched around our church building seven times and then blew a trumpet, the church would fall down? Would you believe that we could make walls fall down with a little marching and trumpet blowing?

It may be hard to believe, but you know what? That's *exactly* what happened. The Israelites did what God told them, and when they blew that trumpet, the walls of Jericho fell right down.

Boys and girls, this story teaches us two *very* important lessons about God. First, God *always* meets our needs. Even if we're facing a problem that looks too big for us to solve, God has a way to solve it. And second, God usually solves our problems in an *unexpected* way. That means, if we need to have some walls knocked down, He's probably not going to rent a crane.

Our God is a supernatural God. *Supernatural* is a big word, but it means that God does things that we don't expect. He does things differently than how *we* usually do them.

So, the next time you pray to God about something you need, remember that you can *expect* Him to provide just what you need. But also remember that He will probably do it in a surprising way.

# Responsive Reading

God, You are the bread of life.

**You invite us to become one with You.**

God, You are the bread of life.

**Your body was broken like bread for our benefit.**

God, You are the bread of life.

**You provide spiritual nourishment for our lives.**

God, You are the bread of life.

**There is no life outside of You.**

God, You are the bread of life.

**Hungry eyes look to You . . .**

God, You are the bread of life.

**Only You can feed them . . .**

God, You are the bread of life.

**And You do.**



# Hymn

## Great Provider, God on High

sung to the tune of *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (St. George's Windsor)

Great Provider, God on high, only You can satisfy.  
You provide for every need, gently edging out my greed.  
Whether at my best or worst, when I hunger or I thirst,  
You are eager, Lord, to give what will help me truly live.

You give both to bad and good. How can this be understood?  
To Your friends, You send the rain; and to enemies, the same.  
Nice or naughty, well we fare; all receive an equal share.  
You don't play the "favorites" game. All are cared for in Your name.

You are coming back again. We can feel the pull within  
To complete our earthly lives and join You beyond the skies.  
But until the time is right, we will walk by faith, not sight,  
Trusting in amazing grace, till we see You face to face.

Even so, Lord, quickly come. We are ready to go home!  
Ready now to enter in, free from sorrow, free from sin.  
But until Your soon return, we'll be finding more to learn  
As we trust You, Lord, to feed every hunger, every need!

*Words by Kelley Lorencin*  
© 2009 Kelley Lorencin. All rights reserved.

# Song Suggestions

## Hymns

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts (Abends)  
*Words and music by Ray Palmer and Herbert S. Oakley*

Let us break bread together  
*American Negro Spiritual*

O God unseen, yet ever near (Meditation)  
*Words and music by Edward Osler and John H. Gover*

## Praise Songs

As bread that is broken  
*Words and music by Claire Cloninger and Paul Baloché*  
© 1995 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Be my bread, Lord  
*Words and music by Connie Boerner*  
© 1984 Boerner-Jabez Productions

Bread of life  
*Words and music by David MacGregor*  
© 2000 David MacGregor

Hungry  
*Words and music by Kathryn Scott*  
© 1999 Vineyard Songs

I'm hungry for You  
*Words and music by Aaron Spiro and Brett Williams*  
© 2000 Birdwing Music

Jesus fed 5,000 people with  
three loaves of bread and two fish.

Find the six extra pieces of bread  
hidden in the picture below.



# Wee Worship

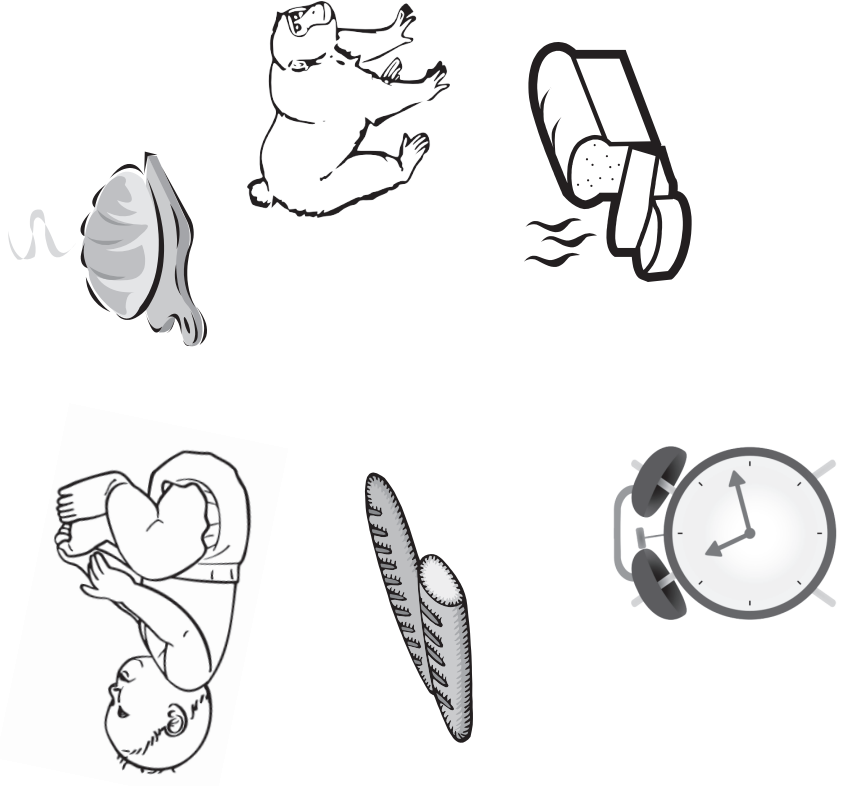
ages 3 to 6

John 6:48-51

## The Bread of Life

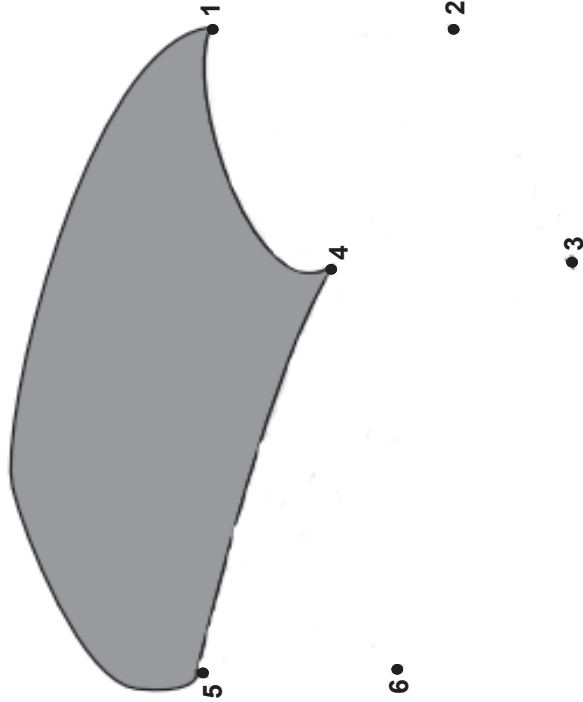
Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

Circle the pictures of bread below.



Jesus wants to feed us with spiritual food.

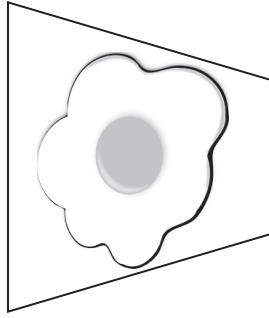
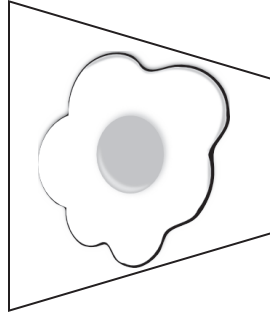
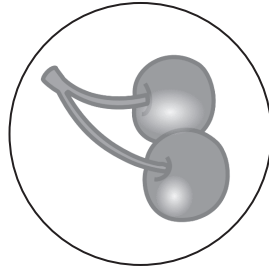
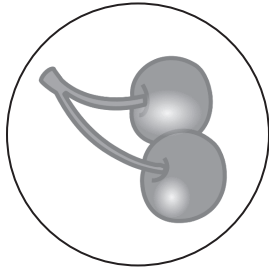
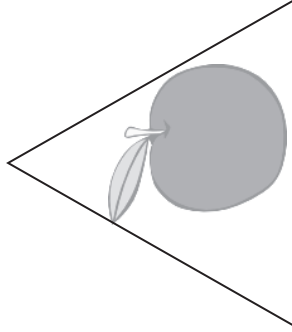
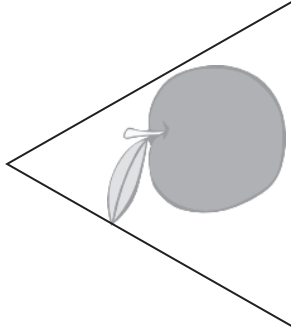
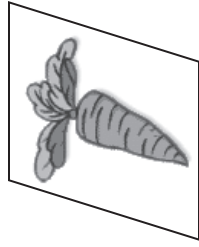
Connect the dots.  
1 2 3 4 5 6



Jesus said, "I am the  
bread of life.  
He who comes to me will  
never go hungry."

Jesus gives us food that lasts forever.

Match the shapes below.





## Hungry or thirsty?

Use the code below and put the correct letters into the blanks to find out what Jesus said about being satisfied.

A=B	B=C	C=D	D=E	E=F	F=G	G=H	H=I
I=J	J=K	K=L	L=M	M=N	N=O	O=P	P=Q
Q=R	R=S	S=T	T=U	U=V	V=W	W=X	X=Y
Y=Z	Z=A						

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
G D V G N B N L D R S N  
\_\_\_\_\_  
L D V H K K M D U D Q F N  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G T M F Q X Z M C G D  
\_\_\_\_\_  
V G N A D K H D U D R H M  
\_\_\_\_\_  
L D V H K K M D U D Q F N  
\_\_\_\_\_  
S G H Q R S X \_\_\_\_\_”



# iWorship

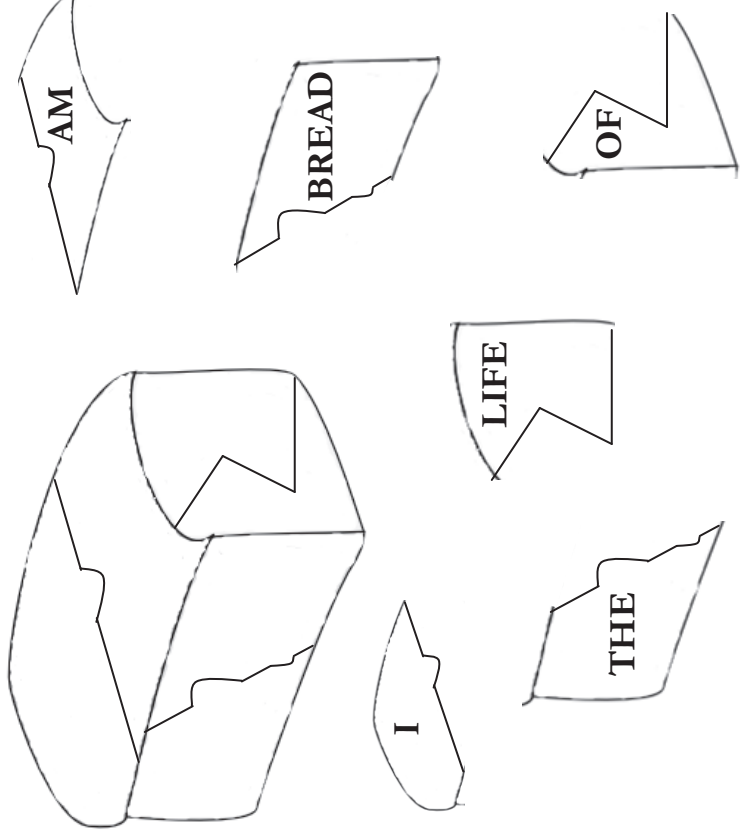
ages 7 to 12

John 6:48-51

## The Bread of Life

Jesus wants to satisfy our needs.

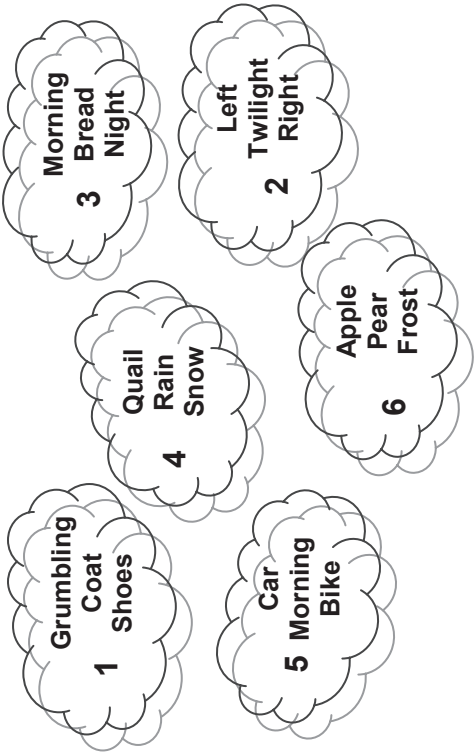
Fit the puzzle pieces together to complete the Bible verse.



## God feeds us when we're hungry

Find the word in each set that doesn't belong.

Write in on the line below.



## Jesus gives us bread that lasts forever.

Write a word for each definition.  
Then transfer the letters to the lines.

The opposite of mine: 1 2 3 4 5

Wrist time-teller: 6 7 8 9 10

To tell a small lie: 11 12 13

To repair ripped clothing: 14 15 16 17

“

1 2 3 4 11 2 4 15 11 7 8 10 15 4 5

7 8 15 14 7 16 16 7 12 16 8 10 15

17 15 5 15 4 8 1 15 8 8 10 15 1

17 12 15 17 10 15 4 15 12 5 8 10 15

13 4 15 7 17 8 10 7 8 9 2 14 15 5

17 2 6 16 11 4 2 14 10 15 7 15 16

6 10 12 9 10 7 14 7 16 14 7 1

15 7 8 7 16 17 16 2 8 17 12 15