

Children and family talk for 15th August 2021

Hello everyone, it's good to have you with me as we explore more of the Bible together and praise God. Let's start by talking to God:

Ever loving Lord Jesus,

You have given us so much.

We come now to listen to your words and learn more about you and what you want us to do.

Thankyou Lord. Amen .

Today we are reading from

John chapter 6 verses 51-58. Here Jesus is still talking to the people who had followed him across the lake to Capernaum, after he had fed them bread and fish, which we looked at two weeks ago. And the conversation is still about who Jesus is, so Jesus tries to explain by continuing with the image of bread. He says:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh." Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked.

So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. I live because of the living God who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever.

Now let's sing; **As we are gathered**

As We Are Gathered Jesus Is Here
One With Each Other, Jesus Is Here
Joined By The Spirit, Washed In The Blood
Part Of The Body, The Church Of God

As We Are Gathered Jesus Is Here
One With Each Other, Jesus Is Here

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Let's talk about our Bible verses

I think to understand our bible verses better today, we have to go back in time to when Jesus was speaking to the people. Bread 2000 years ago was a very important part of people's diet. It would have been different to the bread we can get in the supermarket today, as it would have been made by hand with coarse grain which could have been barley, wheat or another grain and which would have had the germ and bran left in, unlike today. This would have meant it was highly nutritious and have provided a good source of sustaining energy. This was important as it was usual for people to have just two meals a day, and miss lunch, so they needed something that would help sustain them throughout the day.

Wine was also an important staple, as they didn't have tea and coffee, and water could often be contaminated, as they drew it from rivers and streams as well as wells, where animals were nearby. Often, they watered the wine down, and women and children were not allowed to drink wine, so would have had a watered-down type of fruit juice which was a by product of the wine making.

So why does Jesus say we should be eating his flesh and drinking his blood? After all, we're not vampires, are we?!

Jesus often used images people might understand to give them some keys to God's Kingdom. By using the image of bread and wine as his body and flesh, he is trying to tell people that by making God a part of our everyday lives, just as bread and wine would have been a part of the people of Jesus' time everyday lives, by listening and then acting on what he says, we can become one with Jesus and will be given everlasting life with Jesus in heaven. If we can spend time reading the bible and talking to God, we can be sustained throughout the day with the words of God, just as food and drink sustains us through the day.

Jesus talks about being the true bread from heaven, here he is referring back to the manna that God sent from heaven down to the Israelites to keep them going as they struggled to survive in the desert. Just as God sent manna to the people then, so God sent Jesus to us so that we can survive in our world. Sometimes our world can seem like a hard place to live, where so few people seem to want to be Christians or believe in God, and there is so much anger and hatefulness around. Just as a desert is hard to survive without food and water, so our world is hard to survive without God's Love. Jesus wants to turn this around and wants us to really live by being one with him, by reading our bibles and talking to God. Christians see Jesus' body now as the body of Christian believers, so when we come together in Church, we are one body in Jesus Christ, all believing together.

Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life again after 3 days. On the cross his body was broken and when we take bread and wine at communion, we remember this. That Jesus died for us, to save us from the wrong things in the world, so that we can have everlasting life with God in Heaven.

Let's talk to God now:

Dear Lord Jesus,

Sometimes we are like the people following you at Capernaum, who don't understand, but want to. We really want to understand and be a part of your church Lord. We want to believe in you and spread your message of love to others.

Help us to believe.

Be with us, Lord Jesus, everywhere we go.

Guide us, Lord Jesus, in all that we do.

Tell us, Lord Jesus, the words we should say.

In your name we ask it.

Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The activity sheet from roots: [activity-sheet-15-august-2021.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-15-august-2021.pdf)