

INTRO

- What's your favourite bread? Defend your choice. Why is it the best?

Our current series "Abide" looks at the power and beauty of God's word through images recorded in the Gospel of John.

Why did John write this gospel?
But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
—John 20:31

READ

The Word is like Bread:

John 6:27
John 6:35-39
John 6:47-49
Matthew 4:4
John 4:34

REFLECT & RESPOND

Qu: When you think of Jesus as the "bread of life" or "the living bread" what comes to mind?

"Don't waste your energy striving for perishable food like that. Work for the food that sticks with you, food that nourishes your lasting life, food the Son of Man provides. He and what he does are guaranteed by God the Father to last."
— John 6:27,28 The Message

What is this bread?**1. The Word**

So many images are tied together in the passages we read — we are instructed to work for food that brings eternal life — Jesus himself is that food, that bread — the bread that brings life is the word of God and Jesus is the word.

2. The Work

Jesus said that his food was to do the will of the one who sent him. It's recorded in the Gospel of Luke, that he came to seek and save the lost. His last words to his disciples were to go into the world and do the same.

Questions:

Consider and discuss two action points for 2022.

a) The Word: How are you hoping to grow in your relationship with God and his word over the next year? How can we as individuals and with one another grow in our faith?

Over the past 22 months, life feels like the "pause" button has been hit numerous times. We're continually reminded of what we can't do. It's time to look for and take opportunities for practical ministry.

b) The Work: Is there a missional expression that you are interested in or desire to be part of this year? Is there an area of practical ministry we can consider doing with our small group?

PRAY

- Take a couple of minutes to pray silently for one another. Be mindful of the things that come to mind as you pray for others in the group.
- Next, take some time to share with each other those things that came to mind as you prayed.
- Now, pray for those things as a group.