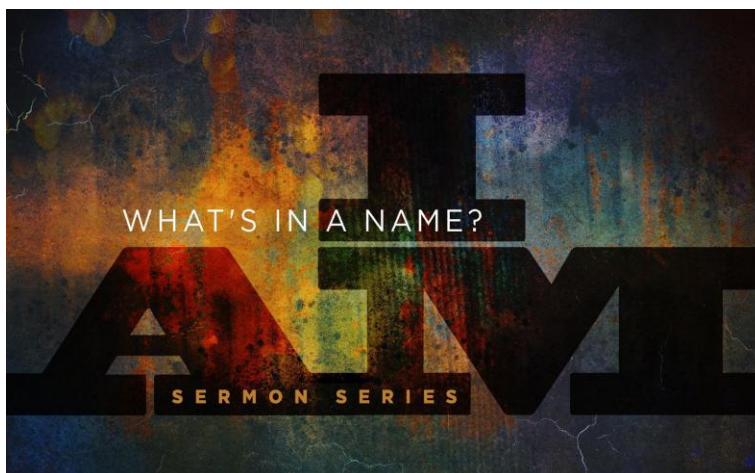




Series Introduction: We are in a 9-week journey through the gospel of John and into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what that means for us. This series is a comprehensive look at the **"I AM"** (God is YHWH) statements of Christ in the New Testament. We're discovering how his declarations about his identity traces its roots back to the Old Testament. Together, these lessons offer a multi-faceted view of Jesus, the ways he impacts everyday life – our struggles, fears, questions, hopes, and dreams!

Message 3: **"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"**

John 6:1-70 (6:35)

Lesson Introduction: Bread....considered a staple of human life for generations, how do you see the need for bread? How has it been viewed since the beginning of time and in various cultures? Has it become just ordinary in our culture? What about in Bible times (the exodus, widow of Zarephath, temptations of Jesus, Lord's Supper, etc.)? The point of Jesus referring to himself as "the bread of life" is that he offers a kind of nourishment that goes beyond the bodily needs. He is the object of our deep hunger and only after being saved through him, are we eternally satisfied.

THE "SIGN" THAT PRECEDED HIS PRONOUNCEMENT – 6:1-25

Jesus has just fed the 5000 with 5 small barley loaves when a truckload was needed!

Now, the crowd follows him to the other side of the lake wondering what could be next.

HUMAN NATURE IS BEING _____ FOR THE WRONG THINGS – 6:26-27

"You're looking not for miracles, but because you ate all the food you wanted!" "Work for food that gives eternal life."

WE THEN EXPECT GOD TO _____ US WITH THOSE THINGS – 6:28-29

"What exactly does God want us to do?" "God wants you to have faith in the One he sent."

THEN, WE GO FURTHER DEMANDING GOD _____ HIMSELF TO US – 6:30-34

"What miracle will you do so we can have faith in you?" "God gave manna to our ancestors."

"My Father is the One who gives you the true bread from heaven." "Lord, give us this bread and don't ever stop!"

AT THIS POINT, JESUS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE _____ OF LIFE – 6:35-51

"I am this bread." "But you have seen me and still do not have faith in me."

Then the grumbling and put-downs began, questioning and doubting who Jesus really is.

JESUS TAKES IT EVEN FURTHER IN A _____ TEACHING – 6:52-59

"You won't live unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood...if you do, you will have eternal life and be raised!"

Is this to be taken literally? Is this a reference to the Lord's Supper? Or, is it his way of saying that you must be immersed in my reality? Absorbed in my ways and truths? I am the bread (nourishment) God sent to you! **"I AM!"**

IT BECOMES A _____ FOR HIS FOLLOWERS – 60-71

This, too, is our dilemma. Jesus is not always Who we want him to be. But is he our bread, our sustenance for life!

What do I really want? What am I really hungry for? Is it the deeper spiritual needs that distinguish us from others?