

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

- Have you ever said or done something mainly for the shock value? Share stories.

Worship

Share a simple communion service. If possible, arrange for different people to lead these aspects of the communion:

1. Welcome - words declaring that everyone is invited!
2. Confession / preparation - a prayer or time of silence giving people the chance to confess any sins and commit themselves to God followed by Declaration of forgiveness - the words of 1 John 1: 8 - 9 could be used.
3. Institution - read 1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26
4. Thanksgiving - thanking God for the bread & wine and for what they represent
5. Distribution - words to precede the actual eating & drinking - one could simply read John 6:35.
6. Post-communion prayer - thank the Lord Jesus for the blessings shared at his table

Word

Read John 6: 32 - 40

- What might 'bread' represent as a spiritual symbol A) for Jews B) for Christians and C) for people of no particular religion?
- Does this great I AM statement (verse 35) lock or unlock the door to the Kingdom? It's OK to argue either way!
- If you wish, have a discussion about how you all imagine the resurrection at the last day. What might it be like? Who will be there? Who will not be there?

Read John 6: 41 - 47

- How would you answer the question in verse 42?
- Jesus changed the subject in verses 43 - 47. If he'd answered the question he'd be engaging in a mind-bending wrangle about how he, a man with a mortal body like ours, could have existed

from the beginning of time. What does he offer instead of theology? Does it help at all with the question raised?

Read John 6: 48 - 51

- Jesus refers here to two types of bread. Compare and contrast them.
- Is ‘the bread that comes down from heaven’ A) communion bread, or B) what communion bread represents or C) something broader about our experience of Christ and life? Discuss!

Read John 6: 52 - 58

- The question of verse 52 seems only logical. How would you answer it?
- After all your discussions, how might you explain verse 53 to a person who was not a Christian?
- What is the effect of this ‘eating’ and ‘drinking’?
- These words could be used (or abused?) to support a particular church’s claim that regular participation in their communion service is essential for salvation. Indeed, they have been used in this way. Do you think that was the intention of the gospel writer? If not, why ever are these perplexing words recorded on Jesus’ lips?

Response

Bake a loaf of bread at home. Eat it, maybe with some nice butter and jam. As you eat, reflect on the idea that Jesus is the bread of life. Write some thoughts about this in your journal. What can it mean about human life to experience Jesus in the same way as we experience bread?