

March 14/15, 2026
"The Bread of Life"
Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **March:** Prayers of Confession

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [John 6:25-71](#) | The Bread of Life

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. John 6:47-48

The crowd tracks Jesus around the Sea of Galilee, buzzing with excitement and expectation. The day before, Jesus fed five thousand people with just five loaves and two fish on a hillside ([John 6:1-14](#)). They are hungry again and want a miracle worker to keep their stomachs satisfied. When Jesus tells them he is the bread of life, that he himself is what they need, many turn and walk away. He offers something greater than physical bread. He offers spiritual bread through himself—an eternal satisfaction for their greatest need. But they don't want him, just their next meal.

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus offers true satisfaction and life. He is the light of the world, the living water, and the resurrection and the life ([John 8:12](#); [4:10](#); [11:25](#)). Over the next three weeks, we will explore what Jesus means when he claims to be the source of life. The hunger we feel is real—for meaning, for belonging, for something that finally satisfies. We often move from one thing to the next. We hope a new relationship, achievement, or experience will be enough. We tend to reach for everything except him. Jesus doesn't just offer temporary fulfillment for today. He offers us himself, a gift that lasts for eternity.

TODAY: Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Be Thou My Vision](#)." Sing the words "Thou and Thou only, be first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art," as a prayer of surrender, choosing Jesus over everything else competing for your heart.

Day 2 [John 6:26-34](#) | Our Hunger

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. John 6:27

The crowd presses Jesus for another sign. They want more bread. Jesus points past the miracle to its meaning. When he references Moses and the manna in the wilderness, he corrects a long-held assumption: Moses did not provide the bread. God did ([John 6:32](#)). The manna was never just a meal. It was a daily invitation to trust God as the one true source of sustenance. Generation after generation, the Israelites missed the point. They ate the bread but missed the provision for their greatest hunger—God himself.

We often miss what God offers us too. An idol is anything that prompts the belief, "If only I had *that*, then I'd be satisfied." We reach for a raise, relationship, or new experience, certain this one will finally be enough. The new thing satisfies for a short while, and then it becomes the old thing. The promotion feels significant for a few paychecks, and then it's just normal. The vacation is fun and refreshing but then wears off. We may be searching for good things, but we expect them to do what only God can. We might even get mad at God for

not giving us what we think he should. He is not withholding what we need. Rather, he offers us something better—himself.

TODAY: Practice a simple fast. Choose one thing you regularly turn to for comfort or distraction, and give it up for the day (for example, social media, a snack, entertainment, etc.). Each time you reach for it, pause and pray: “Lord, you are what I’m hungry for. Fill me with yourself.”

Day 3 [John 6:48-51](#) | Lasting Satisfaction

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. John 6:51

The crowd still seeks a sign to know if Jesus is really from God. They expect a king who will break Rome's grip and keep their stomachs full. They want a new Moses who will free them from oppression and provide for their daily needs. Jesus offers something far greater. He hasn't come to free them from Rome or just fill their dinner plates. He's come to fulfill their deepest need—forgiveness of sin and restoration to God. The bread he offers is his own body, given on the cross, so that whoever trusts him will live forever.

We, too, need his bread. Every person carries the weight of sin and separation from God. Nothing we accumulate, achieve, or experience can remove that weight. Jesus gave his body and poured out his blood on the cross to pay for our sin, taking the punishment we deserve so we can be forgiven and restored to true life with God. And that life begins now. Not a perfect life or one free from all hardship, but a life marked by enduring peace, joy, and fulfillment even when things are hard. He is the life that truly satisfies.

TODAY: If you have never placed your faith in Jesus, this is a great day to do so. Pray and tell God you believe Jesus died for you and that you want to follow him. If you already trust Jesus, learn how to share the good news with others. Join our Sharing Your Faith workshop [HERE](#).

Day 4 [John 6:51-58](#) | The Cure

Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. John 6:57

The crowd stands in shock. Eat his flesh? Drink his blood? Jesus's words are deliberately jarring, designed to cut through every expectation they have brought to him. He points to a powerful truth: the ultimate cure for their hunger is not a *what*. It is a *who*. Through his body broken and his blood shed on the cross, Jesus offers wholeness. The one who keeps coming back, who feeds on him continually, finds a nourishment that does not run out. The more they come to him, the more they will be filled. Many cannot accept this truth and walk away ([John 6:66](#)).

We have a choice too. Knowing Jesus is the answer is one thing. Actually turning to him instead of our idols is another. The process starts with identifying what we keep reaching for—achievements, approval, the relationship we pin our hopes to. Then we expose it, saying honestly, “This won't satisfy.” The last three raises didn't bring lasting fulfillment, and the next one won't either. The last one hundred likes on a post didn't fulfill us, and the next one hundred won't either. But we can't simply remove an idol and leave the space empty. It must be replaced. We are only drawn away from our idols when Jesus becomes more satisfying, compelling, and real to us than they are.

TODAY: Sit quietly and ask God to show you the idol you most often turn to for fulfillment. Then pray honestly: “God, I keep turning to _____ to fill me. It won't satisfy. Help me love you more than I love this.”



Day 5 [Luke 15:11-24](#) | The Prodigal's Confession

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. March's focus is Prayers of Confession.

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." Luke 15:21

Jesus tells this parable as part of three stories about God's heart for the lost—a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son ([Luke 15:1-10](#)). Religious leaders grumble that Jesus welcomes sinners, so he responds with these stories to reveal the Father's heart. In the story of the prodigal, a young son insults his father by demanding his inheritance early. He leaves home and wastes everything on reckless living. At his lowest moment of starvation, he comes to his senses. He rehearses a confession and heads home, prepared to beg for a servant's position. But before he even finishes his speech, his father runs to him, embraces him, and throws a celebration. The son's confession is met not with anger or conditions but with overwhelming love.

Confession means coming to our senses about our sin and turning back to God. Like the prodigal son, we sometimes wander far from God, chasing things that promise satisfaction but leave us empty. We may feel too ashamed to approach him or worry we've gone too far. But this parable reveals a stunning truth: God doesn't wait for us to clean ourselves up. He runs toward us. Through Jesus, God has already made the way for our forgiveness. When we turn to him and honestly admit our sin against God, we find a Father ready to embrace and restore us. Confession is simply coming home.

TODAY: Is there an area where you've wandered from God? Turn back to him in honest prayer, confess where you've strayed, and trust that your Father is already running toward you with open arms.