

All Age Worship Service

(AAW010)

“I am the Bread of Life”

© Jane Hulme 2017

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE”

Service Aim:

To unpack what Jesus meant when He said: *“I am the bread of life,”* and to encourage people to satisfy their hunger for life by following Jesus.

Biblical Reference(s):

Mark 6:31-44, John 6:25-35

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	Desert island dilemma – Choosing items most needed to survive
Link:	Bread and water are utterly essential for life to satisfy our hunger/thirst
Bible reading:	Dramatized feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6:31-44)
Songs:	<u>Songs worshipping Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk 1:	Jesus satisfied the people’s physical hunger. This “sign” pointed to the fact that Jesus had come to satisfy a much deeper hunger.
Drama / puppet:	Monologue..... “Nothing seems to satisfy”
Talk 1 cont:	Jesus satisfies our hunger for life. John 6:35 Jesus is essential for life.
Memory Verse:	John 6:35 - using loaves of bread
Songs:	<u>Song/s about what Jesus did for us so we can have life</u> (See Appendix 1)
Testimonies:	Couple of people share how relationship with Jesus has brought them life and has satisfied them.
Memory Verse:	John 6:35 - using loaves of bread
Link:	Jesus’ invitation to “come” to Him and “believe in Him”
Prayer:	Prayer of “coming” to Jesus and asking for life
Songs:	<u>Song/s declaring faith in Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory Verse:	From memory
Talk 2:	We need to daily build up our relationship with Jesus
Prayers:	With the refrain “You are the bread of life. Be our/their all in all”
Lord’s prayer	
Summary:	
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the first of Jesus' seven "I am" statements that are recorded in John's Gospel; "I am the bread of life."

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

**Lord we are here to worship you.
Would you meet with us through your Holy Spirit,
Teach us through your Word,
Show us where we need to change,
And give us all we need to serve you in the world.
For the glory of your name. Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm up:

The warm up involves a child choosing three items that they consider would be essential for surviving a week on a desert island. You need to set up a table in full view of the congregation. Lay on the table the following items: a very large bottle of water, a mobile phone, a bottle of sun-cream, a map, a large loaf of bread, a £10 note, some make-up, a Bible, a knife and fork and a sleeping bag. Either choose a child volunteer before the service or invite a child to come forward to help you. You might say something like:

N (name of child) is about to go and live on a desert island for a week all by themselves.

- They are allowed to take just three things in their rucksack to enable them to survive on the island.
- The question is: "Which three things should *N* take so that they can survive?"
- We have here a large bottle of water, a bottle of sun-cream, a mobile phone, a map of the island, a large loaf of bread, a £10 note, some make-up, a Bible, a knife and fork and a sleeping bag.

So *N* which three things do you think on this table will be essential for your survival on a desert island for a week? (*Receive answers*)

- Most of us here would agree that it is essential for *N* to take bread and water with them wouldn't we?

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
© Jane Hulme 2017

Link:

Bread (or other food) and water are vital for our survival.

- Without water, most of us would die after about 3 days.
- Without bread or other food, most of us would die after about 21 days.
- This is the way that we have been created..... to need regular food and water.

And as we know, when our bodies need food or water, we become hungry or thirsty,

- which causes us to go and get something to eat or drink to satisfy that hunger or thirst.

Our hunger and our thirst are a bit like warning lights that show us what our bodies need to keep alive.....

- a bit like the warning light that comes on in our car when it is running out of petrol!

One day Jesus was with a crowd of people. He had been teaching them all day long and by the evening Jesus' disciples knew that the people must be very hungry.

- Let's see what happened.

Dramatized Bible Reading:

The dramatized Bible reading is taken from Mark 6:31-44 and can be found in Appendix 2. You will need to ensure that there are enough small pieces of bread for everyone in the congregation to have a piece.

Songs:

Songs worshipping Jesus as per Appendix 1

Talk 1:

Over five thousand people were hungry and with five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus fed them all.

- He satisfied their physical hunger with bread and fish and John tells us that *"they all ate and were satisfied"* (Mark 6:42)
- What an amazing miracle.....

As a result of this, many people wanted to follow Jesus because He had satisfied their hunger.....he had filled their stomachs with good things!

- They realised that Jesus was someone special....

What Jesus did reminded them of Moses through whom God had fed their ancestors for forty years with manna and water when they were wandering around in the desert.

- Raw manna used to appear every day on the ground and was known as "bread from heaven."

But Jesus hadn't come to simply satisfy people's physical hunger with bread.....

- This amazing miracle of feeding was a sign pointing to the fact that Jesus had come to satisfy a much deeper hunger within each one of us.....
- a hunger that we often try and satisfy in other ways.
- Watch this.

Drama / Puppet:

The drama (see Appendix 3) is called, "Nothing seems to satisfy" and is a monologue. This could either be performed by an older teenage girl (or boy with a few changes to the script) or by a female puppet² (or male puppet with a few changes to the script) from behind a screen.

If you go with the drama option, the drama takes place with the girl sitting on a chair facing the congregation with a table next to her with various items on it. (ie TV remote, mobile phone, holiday brochure, t-shirt and £10 note). To make it easier, you could make a simple television out of a cardboard box, which you place in front of the girl, onto which are stuck the words of the script.

If you go with the puppet option you won't need the various props.

Talk 1 cont:

This talk needs the props from the previous drama ie TV remote, mobile phone, holiday brochure, t-shirt and £10 note. You will also need a large empty plate, a knife, fork, a couple of wrapped gifts, some nice food (eg special biscuits etc) and a large piece of paper with the word "Jesus" on it. You could prepare a PowerPoint picture of an empty plate with a knife and fork either side of it. In the middle of the plate write the words, "Hungry for life"

So where do we find lasting satisfaction?

- Where do we go to satisfy the deep hunger for life that is within each one of us? *(Pick up a large empty plate and lay it on the table with a knife and fork)*

As our drama (puppet) just showed us, we can look to all sorts of things like: money, *(Pick up £10 note and put it on the plate)*

- clothes *(Pick up t-shirt and put it on the plate),*
- holidays, *(Pick up holiday brochure and put it on the plate),*
- television, *(Pick up TV remote and put it on the plate),*
- and even relationships *(Pick up mobile phone and put it on the plate),* to bring us that deep satisfaction that we long for.

But...as most of us will have discovered, things of this life, however good they are, will never fully satisfy us. *(Remove all items from the plate to leave it empty)*

Think about Christmas day, for example.....

- the day when we will often receive more gifts than at any other time of the year.....*(Pick up a couple of wrapped gifts and put them on the plate)*
- the day when we may eat more and eat better than at any other time of the year.....*(Pick up some nice food and put it on the plate)*
- the day that we have prepared for over many months.

And yet.....many of us, if we are really honest, will find that by Christmas evening, we wonder what it is all about....

- The inner emptiness within us is still there, *(Remove all items from the plate to leave it empty)*
- the inner hunger that is longing to be satisfied is still there.....

² You can purchase a girl puppet from www.onewayuk.com
© Jane Hulme 2017

After Jesus had fed the people and some of them came to talk with him later, Jesus said this:

- *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”* (John 6:35)

Jesus wasn't talking about endless supplies of bread and water, but about something much deeper.

- He says that He is **The One** who can truly satisfy the deepest hunger and the deepest thirst within each one of us.
- Jesus says that He is **The One** who gives life to us; deep satisfying and eternal life. *(Pick up the piece of paper with the word “Jesus” on it and put it on the plate)*

You see we have been made to live in relationship with God, our Heavenly Father.....

- in a relationship where we are loved unconditionally;
- where we can be secure,
- where we can know deep peace, hope, and joy.

Deep down each one of us is hungry and thirsty for life....

- and as bread and water are essential for giving life to our physical body,
- so Jesus is essential for giving life to our spirit.

Jesus isn't simply any old bread!

- He is the most premium bread that can ever be tasted....
- He is the bread who can satisfy us.....
- because He is the bread from heaven!

Memory Verse:

The memory verse is John 6:35. You could either present it using seven French sticks of bread that you attach the words to, or you could present it using pictures of bread that contain the words as below:

- Bread 1: “I am
- Bread 2: the bread of life.
- Bread 3: Whoever comes to me
- Bread 4: will never go hungry and
- Bread 5: whoever believes in me
- Bread 6: will never be thirsty”
- Bread 7: John chapter 6, verse 35

Let's say the memory verse together a couple of times and then we will remove a couple of the loaves of bread and we will see whether you can remember it!

Songs:

Song/s about what Jesus did for us so that we can have life as per Appendix 1

Testimonies:

Invite one or two people to share **briefly** what a difference Jesus has made to their lives and how He has satisfied their deep hunger for life.

Memory Verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 6:35 a couple of times using the loaves of bread.

Link:

Having heard what Jesus has done for us, is there anything that you and I need to do to receive the satisfying life that He offers?

- Yes there is!

Jesus invites us to simply “come” to him, and “believe” in Him, and then we will receive from Him the life that will satisfy our deepest hunger.

Let’s take a moment of quiet as we think about how we will respond to Jesus’ invitation. PAUSE

Prayer:

Lead people into a prayer like the one below:

Lord Jesus,

We come to You, believing that You are the bread of life.

You alone are The One who can truly satisfy us.

Please forgive us for trying to satisfy our inner hunger with wrong things.

We believe that You died for our sins when You hung on the cross.

Please give us the gift of life that will satisfy us.

Thank you Lord, Amen.

At the end of the prayer, ask Jesus to come and fill people with His Holy Spirit. You may also want to invite people who have turned to Jesus for the first time to come and speak with a Minister at the end of the service to receive some help with the first steps of the Christian life.

Songs:

Song/s declaring faith in Jesus as per Appendix 1

Memory Verse:

Repeat the memory verse a couple of times, this time without the bread prompts!

Talk 2:

We satisfy our body’s hunger and thirst by eating bread and drinking water every day don’t we?

- We satisfy our inner hunger and thirst for life by spending time with Jesus every day,
- building up our relationship with Him.

As we spend time with Jesus, listening to what He says to us as we read our Bibles;

- speaking with Him and listening to Him as we spend time in prayer,
- and then obeying what He says to us;
- so we walk in the deeply rich and satisfying life that God has given us.

Can I encourage you this morning to make the top priority of your life to develop a daily habit of spending time with Jesus?

- seeking Him and His presence,
- reading your Bible and praying,
- because the more you get to know Jesus, the more He will satisfy your deepest hunger for life.

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family or by a Sunday school group etc. You could lead the prayers in the following way:

- 1) Praising Jesus for who He is and ending with the refrain:
You are the bread of life. Be our everything.
- 2) Praying for those who don't yet know Jesus, that they would come to know Him and ending with the refrain:
You are the bread of life. Be their everything.
- 3) Praying for those who are going through hard times....the poor, the weak, the sick, those in prison...and ending with the refrain:
You are the bread of life. Be their everything.

End the time of prayer with the Lord's prayer.

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

- Jesus fed 5000 people from five loaves of bread and two fish.
- This miraculous sign pointed to the truth that Jesus is the bread of life, who came to satisfy our deep hunger for life.
- We receive life from Jesus when we come to Him, believing in Him.
- We continue to receive life by developing our relationship with Jesus.

Final Song:

Lead into the final songs as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Jesus, You are the bread of life.
Keep us feeding on You so that our spirits are satisfied in You,
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Come, now is the time to worship (Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs)
- Hallelujah, Hallelujah (Ben Cantelon © 2007 Thankyou Music)
- Praise is rising (Brenton Brown & Paul Baloche © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Water you turned into wine (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © sixsteps music)
- We're going to praise the Lord (Alan J Price © 1998 Daybreak Music Ltd)

ii) Songs worshipping Jesus. Ideas include:

- As the deer pants for the water (Martin Nystrom © 1983 Restoration Music Ltd)
- Jesus is the name we honour (Phil Lawson Johnston © 1991 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus You are mercy (Brenton Brown & Don Williams © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Love the Lord with all your heart (Becky Drake, Nick J. Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Wide and high and long and deep (Colin Pye © 2005 Thankyou Music)

iii) Song/s about what Jesus did for us so that we can have life. Ideas include:

- Before the throne of God above (Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship)
- For God so loved the world (John Hardwick © 1994 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- My Jesus, my Saviour (Darlene Zschech © 1993 Darlene Zschech / Hillsong Publishing)
- Who O Lord could save themselves? (Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- You left heaven's praise (Jock James © 2013 Life Worship & Integrity Worship Music)

iv) Song/s declaring faith in Jesus

- I believe in Jesus (Marc Nelson © 1987 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
- In Christ alone (Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- Lord I come to you (Geoff Bullock © 1992 Geoff Bullock Music)
- No-one but you Lord can satisfy the longing in my heart (Andy Park © 1988 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- This I believe (Ben Fielding, Matt Crocker © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- We believe in God the Father (Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music)

Final song. Ideas include:

- All I once held dear (Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music)
- Amazing grace (my chains have gone) (Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio © 2006 sixsteps Music)
- I am the bread of life (a couple of verses) (Suzanne Toolan © 1971 GIA Publications Inc)
- In Him I have believed (Kate Simmonds © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- My life is in you Lord (Daniel Gardner © 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- You're the Word of God the Father (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2002 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – Dramatized Mark 6:31–44

Cast: Narrator, Jesus, four disciples, boy
Props: Five bread rolls, two fish (eg sardines), thin white sliced bread cut up into quarters (enough for everyone to have a piece), gluten free bread cut up into quarters (for anyone who needs it), bread baskets

.....
(Enter Disciples and Jesus who walk up the centre of the church to the front, chatting together)

Narrator: The disciples had been very busy healing the sick and teaching people about the Kingdom of God. In fact they were so tired that Jesus said to them:

Jesus: Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.

(Disciples and Jesus walk towards the congregation, but not looking at them)

Narrator: So they went away by themselves in a boat to a remote place. But many people saw them leaving and recognised them. They ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of Jesus and his friends.

(Looking out at the congregation)

Disciple 1: Oh wow look at all these people.

Disciple 2: So much for a solitary place!! These people must be really keen to have come all this way.

Jesus: *(spoken with compassion)*

Look at this crowd. They are like sheep without a shepherd. I must teach them about my Father's love.

Narrator: And so Jesus began teaching them many things.

(Disciples move away and sit down at the front. Jesus mimes teaching)

Now it was getting late in the day and Jesus' disciples came to speak to him.

Disciple 1: This is a very remote place.

Disciple 2: It's very late Jesus – in fact these people are getting really hungry. They haven't eaten all day.

Disciple 3: Send the people away so that they can go to the villages nearby and buy themselves something to eat.

Jesus. You give them something to eat!

Disciple 4: Us..... now come on Jesus. That would take more than half a year's wages.

Disciple 3: You want **us** to spend all that money giving them all a meal!

Jesus: How many loaves do you have? Go and see.

(Disciples move into the congregation asking:)

Disciple 1: Have any of you got any loaves so that we can get on and have some supper?

Disciple 2: No... nothing.....

Disciple 3: OK....you'll all be going hungry I think.

Boy: *(stands up from within the congregation and holds up a basket containing 5 bread rolls and 2 fish)*
I have 5 loaves and 2 fish. It isn't much but you can have it.

Disciple 4: Come with me.

(Disciple 4 and boy go to Jesus. Other disciples follow)

Disciple 4: This boy says he has 5 small loaves of bread and 2 small fish, but how far will that go among so many? There must be thousands of people here. They would be lucky to have a crumb each.

(Jesus takes the bread and fishes from the boy)

Jesus: Thank you. Now make sure everyone is sitting down.

(Disciples go out amongst the congregation)

Disciple 1: OK sit down everyone.

Disciple 2: Make yourselves comfortable.

Disciple 3: Crumbs coming up for supper!

Disciple 4: If you are lucky.

(Jesus holds the bread and fish basket in his hands and looks up to heaven.)

Jesus: Thank you Father for this bread and fish, and for providing for your children.

(Addresses disciples)

Divide this amongst everyone and make sure they all have enough to eat.

(Disciples pick up baskets with quarters of bread in and distribute amongst the congregation)

Disciple 1: Funny this.....the bread seems to be going round everyone

Disciple 2: I know, they all seem to be getting fed.

Disciple 3: We did only have 5 loaves and 2 fishes didn't we?

Disciple 4: Yes, but it is amazing. The food doesn't seem to be running out.

(Disciples return to Jesus after giving everyone a piece of bread)

Disciple 1: Jesus, Jesus, everyone has been fed!

Jesus: Good. Now I want you to bring to me what is left over.

(Disciples bring baskets with remaining bread to Jesus)

Disciple 2: We have collected 12 basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish

Disciple 3: And everyone has had enough.

Disciple 4: It is a miracle.

Narrator: That day the number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

(Disciples and Jesus exit)

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

© Jane Hulme 2017

Appendix 3 – Drama: “Nothing seems to satisfy”

Cast: Young person

Props: Chair positioned so that it is facing the congregation, small table next to the chair containing a TV remote, mobile phone, holiday brochure, t-shirt, £10 note

.....
(Enter young person who comes in, sits down on the chair, picks up the TV remote and pretends to watch the television. Almost immediately they begin to flick between the channels)

Is there nothing decent to watch on the television anymore? It's either repeats or reality shows.....I'm getting really bored with the same old programmes.....I just long for something different I suppose....PAUSE.....I might as well switch it off.

Let's have a look at facebook and see what's going on with my friends? *(Picks up mobile and flicks through it)*

Hmmm.....everyone seems to have such exciting lives. Bessy is going scuba diving at the weekend.....lucky girl. Emma is off to the Maldives with her family for a fortnight and Megan is having a hot tub fitted in her back garden. My life is so boring.....get up, go to school, come back home, eat dinner, do homework and then either swimming lessons, dancing lessons or watch the TV.....I wish that there was some point to all of this....PAUSE

At least I have a holiday in a couple of weeks' time.....now there's a thought.....I might meet someone nice while I am away. *(Picks up holiday brochure and flicks through it)* Last year I met this really cool guy and we hung out together for a few days.....but and of course there is always a but..... when we got home I never heard from him again. I felt so upset for weeks afterwards.....I thought that he really liked me.....but obviously not....I wonder if I will ever find someone who will truly love me.....PAUSE

Oh well, I suppose I could go shopping again. A couple of days ago I bought this really trendy t-shirt *(Picks up t-shirt)*.....I haven't really got anything to go with it, so perhaps I ought to go and get myself a new pair of jeans.....and while I'm there I think I need a new pair of trainers and a scarf to match my t-shirt.

The problem is that I've only got £10 left until the end of the month. *(Picks up £10 note)* I wish my dad earned more money....I never seem to have enough....there are always more things I want. The funny thing is that once I have bought something new I'm often fed up with it after a few weeks..... it doesn't seem to satisfy me anymore. I wonder if anything will ever satisfy me?....PAUSE

Perhaps I ought to play the lottery. Imagine winning a million pounds and all that you could buy with that? I could have my own house, my own yacht, my own swimming pool, my own Porsche, my own fifty inch television, an endless supply of designer clothes.....how amazing would that be? PAUSE....or would it? The millionaires I see in our newspaper always look so miserable....perhaps having loads of stuff doesn't really satisfy...

I wish I could find someone who could tell me where to find lasting satisfaction.

(Exit young person)