



## PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

**Welcome:** *Icebreaker – Tell your group about the best meal that you have ever had!*

**Study Tip:** This week, we spent some time talking about the blessing, breaking, and giving of **bread** by Jesus. The Hebrew word *lehem* (like Beth*lehem* meaning the house of **bread**) was used to refer to bread as well as any kind of generic, every-day food. Meat, for example, would be eaten by the lower class only during special occasions while many other foods were eaten alongside of bread as a supplement. Although the scriptures do not explicitly attribute any meaning to bread, the Israelites, like other Ancient Near Eastern communities, were entirely dependent on sovereign provision for this mainstay (Gen. 31:54, 37:25; 1 Kgs 22:27). Because of this, bread stood to become a strong symbol for life itself and basic necessities. The process of acquiring this bread required fertility of the land, the rain, and productive labor much of which fell out of human control (Deut. 28:5, 17). After extensively processing grain, or barley depending on economic class (Rev. 6:6), and storing the fine flour in jars, the Israelite would bake the bread in a pan or an oven (Lev. 2:4-5, 7:9)! Then they would offer this bread as a customary sign of hospitality (Gen. 18:6). Furthermore, bread was used in the cultic religions as a way to nourish or please the Gods. Israel, however, would famously eat unleavened bread (Ex. 12:8-11) and present the ritual bread of presence in the temple every sabbath (Ex. 25:23-30; Lev. 24:5-9) not necessarily to nourish YHWH (Ps. 50:12-13) but to acknowledge that He is the one responsible for providing bread even if they were on the run! This sovereign provision is most evident in the famous scene of the Manna that fell from the sky as Israel moved to the promise land (Ex. 16:35). As you read this study guide, remember Jesus who claimed to be the very **bread of life** (Jn. 6:35), and assumed the head of the household by opening the meal, taking a loaf of bread, giving thanks, breaking it, and distributing it (Jn. 21:13, Lk. 24:35). In the same way, think about how Jesus was broken to be given out to the world for its spiritual nourishment!

## What's Going on This Week

This week, 3Crosses Church hosted a special worship service with Dr. Glenn Packiam and his sermon titled *Blessed, Broken, Given*. Dr. Packiam points to the various times the Lord's table is mentioned in scripture, but particularly focusses on the Passover / last supper scene in *Luke 22* in order to showcase how the bread at the Lord's table is a powerful image of our lives in the hands of Jesus. Dr. Packiam challenges the church by looking at the reaction of the disciples who felt they had nothing to offer to the mission of Jesus. However, when Jesus blessed them and broke them, they were given to the world so that others may be brought into life abundantly through the resurrected Jesus Christ!

**“The Lord's Table is not just a central practice of Christian worship; it is also a picture of our life in Christ.” – Dr. Glenn Packiam**



## **GROUP MEETING** (60 – 90 minutes)

### **Opening Time of Worship** (10 – 15 minutes)

*Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter into the presence of God for this meeting.*

<b>Option 1: Worship Music</b> Have someone share their favorite worship song. Find it online, play it, and sing along! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them!	<b>Option 2: God Sightings</b> How did you see God at work this week? Spend some time before your group writing down all the ways your group has seen the Lord move. Be prepared to do so next week!	<b>Option 3: The Divine Word</b> <b>Luke 22:14-23</b> is a recollection of the Lord's supper. Spend some time meditating on the text and allow the words of the scripture to speak to you. What is standing out to you?
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### **The Bread that is Blessed** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Texts: Luke 22:19; Genesis 1:27-31; Ephesians 1:3-5* – In Luke's account of the Lord's supper, Jesus' first act is to "give thanks" and bless the bread that he has taken. On Sunday, this brought up a conversation about the term blessing. It was defined for us as being a return to one's true identity, true destination, and proper function. **When you think about the church being "blessed", what thoughts come to your mind? How do these passages and this definition of blessing (identity, destiny, function) challenge or confirm your pre-conceived notions of what "blessing" truly means?** **Prayer Tip:** List any of the ways your group may be confused about the concept of blessing and be prepared to pray for renewed sight for the Lord's blessing!

### **The Bread that is Broken and Given** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Texts: Luke 24:30-32; Acts 27:33-36* – These final two scriptures are scenes in which bread is blessed, broken, and given. The Luke passage describes an event in which Jesus was able to use the brokenness of the disciples to open them up to the grace of God! Furthermore, Paul is an example of a person that was blessed, broken, and finally given to go out into the world to be shared! **When it comes to being broken, which phrase would you say resonates with you the most: (1) Frailty, (2) Failure, or (3) Falleness of the world? What are the ways that God might use your brokenness to "give" to the world?** **Prayer Tip:** Encourage your group by affirming the different ways that God is preparing us to witness in this world!

### **Closing Time of Prayer** (20 – 25 minutes)

- Pray for new eyes to see "blessings" on God's terms.
- Pray that God would turn our brokenness into "givenness".
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- Pray for the entire group and how they might be able to contribute to future group meetings.
- Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!

Your group is invited to participate in the next churchwide [PrayFast](#) (June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 5pm)



## Throughout the Week (60 – 90 minutes)

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3Crosses.org/coronavirus) . If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3Crosses.org/neighborhood)

**-Summer Road for the Psalms:** Starting next week, the community group curriculum will begin to cover the entire book of Psalms over the Summer! Each week, we will link the study guide to the 8-week Podcast that we have produced! We look forward to walking through the Psalms with you!

**-Community Groups 2021:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)