

Worship + Learning + All Generations =

# CROSS † OVER

John 6 – “Bread of Life”\*

for Wednesdays or Sundays during the season of Lent

(\* Initially created for use during the Season of Pentecost 2015)



The term “CrossOver” when applied to shoes or a car means that the shoe or car is designed for more than one thing. When wearing a crossover shoe one can transition seamlessly from walking to jogging into aerobics. A crossover car features the best of a passenger car and a sport utility vehicle allowing more flexibility. This resource, CrosstOver, is exactly that... the offering of the best of worship and learning for all ages.

We, Sara and Linda, are passionate about all generations participating together in worship and learning. The foundation for CrosstOver is ALL ages and all generations involved in meaningful interaction in the same space, sharing the same experience - being the Body of Christ.

Worship leaders and Christian education coordinators are invited and encouraged to be courageous - to combine the ideas offered below and create something new. Bring elements of worship into learning. Incorporate all age interaction into worship. Combine both and create one CrosstOver seamless experience utilizing the four Bread of Life texts during Lent.

Give it a test run. Make it a “pilot... it is only five weeks!

We hope this offering of ideas for worship and learning spark your imagination and tickle your innards. Find ideas that are a good fit for your space and then let us know what worked well. What you would tweak.

This is kingdom work we are doing together.

May you be deeply blessed in your proclamation and sharing of the Word for your unique multi-generational context and setting.

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We are interested in your ministry and available for consultations.

## **BREAD OF LIFE**

### **Ideas for Intergenerational Worship**

Let's wonder together if Lent is an opportunity to have a single intergenerational worship plus learning experience, or for several weeks in a row to add a few elements to worship that will add some zip to the repetitiveness of these weeks. This is a choose-your-own-adventure style guide. I have provided more options than you could possibly do in one worship service.

### **Worship Space Aesthetics**

Contact your local bakery. At the end of the day there is often much bread to be thrown away. Request to pick it up and then make a Bread of Life collection near the altar. A few days before would be fine. It will be stale but not moldy.

### **Hospitality**

Instead of having the traditional donuts at fellowship time, provide sweet breads, banana bread, lemon poppy seed bread, apple bread, etc. On the "Feeding of the 5,000" week serve fish shaped crackers (goldfish, etc.)

### **Worship Greeting**

If you are a "say hello to your neighbor" kind of place, at the beginning of worship invite people to do introductions in the "Name of Jesus, the Bread of Life," and continue by sharing one's favorite kind of sandwich, along with one's name.

## **Call To Worship**

This is the standard that we use for our "Wisdom and Wonder" monthly interactive worship. For this series, I am adding the words, "the Bread of Life."

Invite pre-readers into the Call to Worship by telling them what they will be saying. In this Call to Worship the congregational response is the same each time to allow all to fully participate.

*The congregation's response is, "Let us worship God, the Bread of Life, together."*

Worship Leader: As children with wonder and awe,

All: Let us worship God, the Bread of Life, together.

Worship Leader: As youth with questions and eager hearts,

All: Let us worship God, the Bread of Life, together.

Worship Leader: As adults with gratitude and praise,

All: Let us worship God, the Bread of Life, together.

Worship Leader: As elders with wisdom and hope,

All: Let us worship God, the Bread of Life, together. AMEN.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

This is an interactive Confession and Forgiveness; you will need:

- writing utensils (pew pencils, pens)
- small post-it size pieces of paper
- 1-2 loaves of bread
- 6 nails
- a small board

See Pinterest: <http://tabled.ca>

Use single loaves or make the loaves of bread into the shape of the cross. Nail the nails into the bread and onto the board. Leave the nails sticking out; just mount the bread to the board. Depending on the size of your congregation you might make several bread confession stations.



Invite folks into a time of quiet reflection, as individuals or families, and to write a confession on the paper. Invite people to come forward and pierce the paper onto the nails in the bread. Have a musician softly playing in the background during this time.

When all are finished, invite them to receive forgiveness with these or similar words:

“Jesus was pierced for your sins and died on the cross for you. Know that Jesus is the Bread of Life. Your sins are forgiven. AMEN.”

### **Reading of the Word**

Choose a version that is kid friendly. Use the *Jesus Story Book Bible* or *The Spark Story Bible*. Do some story telling- consider a story with a congregational refrain every few

verses... “Jesus you are the bread of Life.” (For story-telling ideas see *Heather Roth Johnson*. Find her posts and those of others on the “Killing Sunday School Birthing Cross+Gen Worship” Facebook page)

After several weeks of Bread of Life, Bread of Heaven, etc.... you might use a children's book to tell the story. I love [StoryPath](#) for finding ideas. Here are samples:

- *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett. This is a great book for the Feeding of the 5,000-week. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUjsdYMWgMQ>
- *Mama Panya's Pancakes* by Mary Chamberlin. This is about a boy and his mother in Kenya at the market. A great generosity story. Invite someone whom you have prepared ahead of time to speak to a time when a child taught him/her about generosity.

### **Sermon/Teaching Time**

Statistics inform us that folks learn 10% of what they hear, 20% of what they see and hear, 70% of what they see, hear and do, and 90% of what they teach. Why would we then only have listening sermons?

- Louie CK on FX has some great episodes chronicling the life of a single dad trying to teach his daughters how to live life. “It's Not Fair” is one of my favorites. [http://www.aish.com/j/jt/Jtube\\_Louie\\_Its\\_Not\\_Fair.html](http://www.aish.com/j/jt/Jtube_Louie_Its_Not_Fair.html).

- After watching the clip, invite folks to reflect and share, “What are things in life that are not fair?” And then, “Whose bowls are you looking into that need help?”
- ELCA World Hunger Resources. There are some fabulous ELCA World Hunger seasonal resources for Lent that could be adapted for a Bread of Life series.
  - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>
  - Into the Wild: A Lenten Liturgy & Intergenerational Study on Hunger  
<http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran/Seeds/2014/02/140228-World-hunger-and-Lent>
  - You might choose one story each week during this long season to teach how Jesus is the Bread of Life, not only in our work of feeding people, but in ending the root causes of poverty. There are simple monologues in this series that I like a lot:  
<http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger>
- *Fed and Forgiven* is an Augsburg Fortress Communion Preparation Resource. Incorporate the interactive activities from the lessons as part of your sermon. Each lesson from pre-k through adult has multi-sensory options for each lesson.
  - <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/185/Fed-and-Forgiven?redirected=true>
- Faith and Art -- find some of your favorite art interpretations of Jesus as the Bread of Life, the last supper and communion. Take time as a community to reflect on what you see. The Art Index on Textweek is a place to start if you don't have favorites already:  
<http://www.textweek.com/art/art.htm>
- Focus on the Lord's Prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread...”
  - Dialogue between pastor & people, between the generations, “What does daily bread mean?”
- PB&J (PB&Jesus) See Sending Section.
- Meals for Homeless Ministry. See Sending Section.

### Prayers

Interactive worship provides us with time to practice Christian disciplines, such as prayer. I regularly encourage adults to let the children lead, especially if they are uncomfortable praying out loud themselves.

- Write Table Prayers – during this time, invite folks to share their favorite table prayer and then write one together as a group (especially good if multi-generations together)
- American Sign Language - find someone in your community who knows ASL and teach a prayer



response to each petition “Jesus, Bread of Life, hear our prayer.” Use and practice this for several weeks during the series.

## Communion

Select a different kind of bread for each week– pita, naan, tortilla, limpa, Portuguese sweet bread, Hawaiian bread, etc.

Welcome all ages to the table during this series. For those who have not yet received First Communion instruction, or it is not in the polity of your faith community, offer a different type of bread to children (such as actual bread instead of wafers, etc.) Or be courageous and teach on the new ELCA resource, “The Use of the Means of Grace.” Open your table to all ages during this Bread of Life series.

<http://www.elca.org/worship>

Consider changing how communion is distributed during these five weeks. It is an amazing experience to have a child participate in giving you communion. Yes, it’s a little messy. Yes, the children may need some help. But what an opportunity for teaching, learning and receiving.

Distribute communion to each other - don’t let the pastor and communion assistants have all the fun! After consecrating the elements, distribute them among the people to serve bread and wine to each other. Or have people come forward in usual fashion but invite people to serve one another the Bread of Life.

See Sending ideas for a post-communion or sending activity.

## Blessing

Bless each other with the sign of the cross on one another’s foreheads or hand saying, “Jesus is the Bread of Life for YOU.”

## Sending

- PB&J (PB&Jesus). Provide lunch bags and markers for children, of all ages, to create a bag to use for lunch the following week. Decorate the bags as a reminder that Jesus is the Bread of Life in one’s daily life.
- Meals for the Homeless. As people leave worship provide an opportunity to make meals for a homeless ministry in your community. Or consider doing this as folks return to their seats from communion.
  - Sanitize hands,
  - Make a sandwich (meat and cheese goes faster than PB&J),
  - Place in bag,
  - Add 2 snacks (granola bar, nuts, pudding, crackers, chips, prepackaged treats) and mustard packet (if meat and cheese).
  - Done!

In my congregation, the confirmation youth made 100 lunches for the Lighthouse Shelter in Annapolis, Maryland in less than 40 minutes. Imagine if everyone worshipping, following the sharing of wine and bread, made one lunch.

What if the entire congregation was invited to stay following worship for a quick service project? You might even use the PB&J bags that you created earlier, using one for this ministry and then taking one home for yourself.

### **Taking Faith Home/Into the Week**

- International Meal. Eat together at home or dine out with cuisine that offers a unique kind of bread: (Mexican = tortilla, Indian = naan, Greek = pita). Celebrate and pray together for Christians in other parts of the world who also proclaim Jesus as the Bread of Life.
- Artisan Bread Bible Study. Make artisan “no knead bread” together. While the dough is rising, delve deeper into the Bread of Life texts.
- Bread Delivery. Deliver fresh baked bread (by a local bakery or a member of your congregation- either yeast or quick bread) to the congregation’s neighbors with a note from your congregation. It might say, “Jesus is the Bread of Life. Thanks for being our neighbor.”
- You might also give visitors on your campus fresh baked bread accompanied with a “welcome” packet or consider a ministry of delivering fresh baked bread to their homes.
- Finally, bake bread as a family and take it to your neighbors or a home- bound person or someone you know who is sick or lonely.

We pray these ideas give you some hope or energy for the long set of texts that begin in July. May you be blessed in your proclamation of the Word for the multi-generational context that you find yourself.

*Sara Yotter*

### **Additional Resources**

Hymns & Songs (ELW is the hymnal for ELCA Lutherans.)

- *Big House*, Larry Blair, Mark Stuart, Bob Herdman & Will McGinniss.
- *Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup*, Taize’, ELW 472.
- *Let Us Break Bread Together*, African American Spiritual, ELW 471.
- *One Bread, One Body*, John Foley, ELW 496.
- *The Table*, Chris Tomlin.
- *We Fall Down*, Chris Tomlin.
- *Where is Bread?* Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

[http://www.carolynshymns.com/where\\_is\\_bread.html](http://www.carolynshymns.com/where_is_bread.html)

## **BREAD OF LIFE**

### **Ideas for Cross+Generational Learning**

In the following outline and accompanying power point slides (see separate PowerPoint Presentation), you will find words and photos that offer a glimpse at what an all-age, multi-generational learning experience might look like. Which of these ideas could you use to enhance worship? What elements of worship that Sara offered could you incorporate into learning? How could you combine both into one all-age, extended and combined worship and learning experience?

### **Learning Space Aesthetics**

Place chairs in a circle or multiple semi-circles around the room. Create a welcoming, casual environment. In the center establish a Gathering Table. It is on this table that each week one will place: A Bible opened to the text or story, a candle, basin of water to remember one's baptism, and loaves or baskets of bread, plus any props one will use to tell the Story or reminders of the Story to take home.

The Gathering Table lets people know the theme for the day from the moment they enter the space. (PP #1) When incorporating any of these ideas into worship, the altar becomes the Gathering Table.

### **Hospitality**

For these five weeks, use nametags. As people arrive, invite each to add a

colored dot to his/her nametag that matches the year or decade they were born. (See PP slides #4 & 5).

See Sara's ideas for fellowship time... serve all kinds of bread.

### **Sing** (Call To Worship)

Singing builds community. Each week, like at camp, teach a new table grace that can be sung to familiar tunes. See Camp Songs: <http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activities/camp-songs-for-grace.page-1.html>

Or here is our family's favorite mealtime prayer when our sons were growing up:

*Back of the loaf is the wheat and the flour. And back of the flour is the mill. Back of the mill is the rain and the shower and the Son and God's good will.* (Sung to tune of Michael Finnegan)

Print simple table prayer in the bulletin, place them on your web site, and sing them in worship as part of the liturgy for Communion. Send the songs out in texts for households to use during the week. Print on table-tenants for when sharing a meal.

It is the role of the congregation to equip the household to learn how to pray – practice at church what you want people to do at home. (PP #2)

### **Introduce the Theme**

Refer to your Gathering Table and ask folks what they think the theme is today. Give a very brief explanation of what the "Time after Pentecost"



means and why the focus on the “Bread of Life.” (PP #3)

## Welcome

- Give an overview of your time together and the purpose of gathering all ages for learning and sharing of faith.
- Welcome everyone—households with children and those without, households of one, empty nesters, multi-generational households... always aware of first time participants.
- Identify & Celebrate ALL the Generations (PP #4)
  - Place colored dots on people's nametags or simply have people stand in a circle by decades, from oldest to youngest – acknowledge ALL the generations present in the interactive learning environment and/or worship.
  - Celebrate that a faith community is the only institution that gathers all the generations through all the milestones of life.
  - Honor the Oldest and Youngest present. (PP #5)
  - Make a big deal out of the eldest present (who gets to also claim title of wisest!) and the youngest. They complete your “Circle of Blessing” for creating a community of faith where stories are shared and faith is nurtured.

## Caring Conversation (Worship Greeting)

Invite people to introduce themselves to those of another age, or different colored dot, with a question someone of any age can answer. Create questions that reflect God's Story for the day. (PP #6)

- What is your favorite kind of bread?
- Favorite meal?
- The strangest sandwich you have ever made or eaten?

## High's, Lows and Do Overs...

(Confession and Absolution)

After connecting people with one another, this is a time to model and teach households the faith practice of sharing weekly High's, Lows and “If you could do something over... what would it be?”

- What is it you are sorry for?
- Whom do you need to forgive and whose forgiveness do you want to hear?

Sometime it is easier to practice in the small groups of unrelated people before practicing in one's familial or household group. (PP #7)

## Hear God's Story (Reading of the Word)

Read the Feeding of the 5000 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. Pp244-249. Create small groups (five in a group, each representing a different decade or generation) and give each group a few lines of the story. Each group has 3-minutes to come up with a way to act out their assigned part of the

story for the entire group - using no words. Lights... Camera... Action! (PP #8)

**Reflect on God' Story** (Sermon/Teaching Time)

In the established small groups of five, representing a mixture of decades/generations, make God's story your own. (PP#9) Share:

- A time you were really hungry...
- A time someone surprised you with lunch!
- Name someone who is generous.
- A time you experienced extraordinary abundance?

### **Interact with the Story**

Distribute seven sheets of construction paper among seven of the small, mixed-age groups (five brown sheets with a loaf of bread drawn on each and two yellow, with one fish drawn on each). If more than seven groups, combine groups to make seven. (PP #10)

- Announce that there are hundreds, even thousands who need to be fed from these five loaves of bread and two fish.
- Instruct each group to tear their piece of paper (representing the bread and fish) into as many small pieces as possible, in one-minute. No talking! Call time.
- Invite someone(s) to take the baskets from the Gathering Table/Altar and using their hands sweep the pieces into the baskets.

- If time, each table/group could count the pieces of paper and add up the total. Declare, "Almost nothing has become something!"
- Set the filled baskets back on the Gathering Table.

The role of the congregation is to model faith practices in the gathered community with the encouragement to continue the practice in daily life. Invite the people to hold the hands of those in their small group or household. Echo style, lead the prayer below:

### **Prayer**

*Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest. Let all these gifts to us be blessed. Use us to make a goodly share, for every table, everywhere. Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen (PP #11)*

### **Sharing of a Meal** (Communion)

We gather at the Lord's Table, old wooden tables in the church basement, round tables in the fellowship halls and we gather at picnic tables and household tables. Sharing a meal is always an opportunity to practice our faith. All of these ideas can be incorporated into a meal, shared around tables. How about hosting a Fish Fry! (PP #12)

### **Blessing**

With palms up, mark the open hand of another with the sign of the cross and say, "You are the child of a generous God. You have gifts to share!" Or as Sara suggested: Bless

each other with the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads or hand saying, "Jesus is the Bread of Life for YOU." (PP #13)

**Sending** (or this activity could be done as part of the offering)

Like the little boy with a simple lunch of five simple loaves of bread and two fish, what is the "gift" God has given you to share? How will God use it to give life to a hungry world? (PP #14)

- Give each person a paper plate. Ask each to draw or write words that symbolize a "gift" or ability he/she has been given or knowledge one has developed.
- Invite each one to add their "gift" (plate) to the Gathering Table - or Altar. Those who choose may share out-loud their "gift."
- Leader says, "We are the children of a God who in the very beginning made everything out of nothing. So it is the most natural thing in the world for God to use what each of us has been given to serve the world. When each of us shares what has been given to us, there is more than enough - there is bread for the world."

### **Live God's Story: Taking Faith Home and Into the Week**

As acts of service by the faith community and one's household (PP #15)

- See ideas for Serving shared by Sara...

- Place one of the camp style singing prayers or "Come Lord Jesus" inside the lunch bags you decorated for use this week.

Be prepared for the unleashing of the Holy Spirit as all ages and generations experience and celebrate Christ, the Bread of Life, during Lent this year.

*Linda Staats*

**Note:** When creating household or familial groups for any of the Bread of Life activities, always have individuals or households of "one" join families as the adopted aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent etc. Those attending solo may also form a new household.

### **Additional Resources**

- Building Faith: Mealtime Prayers <http://www.buildfaith.org/2015/04/10/praying-before-meals-at-home/>
- Faith Formation Journeys <http://faithformationjourneys.blogspot.com/2012/08/childrens-sermon-aug-12-2012-pentecost.html>
- Hymn: Where is Bread? [http://www.carolynshymns.com/where\\_is\\_bread.html](http://www.carolynshymns.com/where_is_bread.html)
- The Lord's Prayer as explained and presented in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Pp. 222-227
- Sundays and Seasons <http://sundaysandseasons.com>
- Text Week (Children's Section) <http://www.textweek.com/mkjac/ts/jn6a.htm>
- Worshiping with Children (A favorite) <http://www.worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2015/06/year-b-proper-12-17th-sunday-in.html>