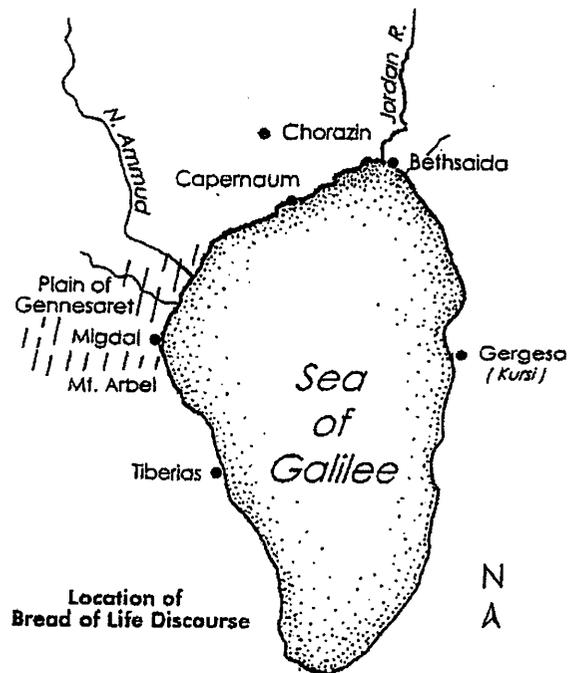


## DISCOURSE ON THE BREAD OF LIFE

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1. **LOCATION:** The day before this discourse, Jesus had fed the five thousand in an uninhabited area near Bethsaida. It is possible that the event may be located on a hillside near Moshav Almagor, overlooking the Plain of Bethsaida. The name "Bethsaida" means "house of fish," i.e. "Fishtown."

The disciples had left the scene of the miracle in the late afternoon and rowed steadily for nine hours, reaching a point only about half way across the northern end of the lake. There Jesus, walking on the water, met them. Immediately they arrived at their destination, the Plain of Gennesaret on the northwestern shore of the lake (John 6:21; Matthew 14:34; Mark 6:53). At the end of the discourse John notes that it had been given in the synagogue at Capernaum (6:59). There is no indication as to when Jesus moved from the Plain of Gennesaret to Capernaum, a short walk of about 3 miles, although vs 27 may mark the point of this transition.



2. **Context:** After the feeding of the five thousand near the northeastern shore of the lake, the crowd realized that there had been only one boat and the disciples had sailed out in it. Jesus had disappeared into the hills that rise on the north. In the morning their strong initiative to locate him, expecting more food, provided Jesus with a natural opening for the discourse (John 6:24-27). Eventually the word spread of his arrival at the Plain of Gennesaret. By boats from Tiberias and on foot they joined him there (vv 23-25).
3. **Metaphors of Christ:** In John's gospel Jesus uses seven metaphors for himself:
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| I AM...                                |  |
| ...the bread of life (6:35)            | ...the resurrection and the life (11:25)     |
| ...the light of the world (8:12; 14:6) | ...the way and the truth and the life (14:6) |
| ...the good shepherd (10:11, 14)       | ...the true vine (15:1,5)                    |
4. **"Eating my flesh/ drinking my blood":**  
Like Jesus' other metaphors, this expression must be understood in its context. Eating sustains life. When He refers to himself as the "bread of life," Jesus is showing that He is as essential to life as bread. Like that bread, He must be received, "ingested." He expands the metaphor to demonstrate the need to receive him completely, expressed by "eating his flesh, and drinking his blood."

# THE BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE

JOHN 6: 22 - 71

**THEME:** Who is He? (cf. Manna = What is it?)

**PLACE:** Galilee: Plain of Gennesaret and in Capernaum

**TIME:** ■ One year before the cross  
 ■ Day after the feeding of the 5000

**PEOPLE:** Disciples, religious leaders,  
 people fed loaves and fishes

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>		
22	—	24

<b>2. LESSONS ON THE LOAVES</b>		
"Receive Christ as you received the bread."		
25	—	29

<b>3. WHO IS HE ?</b>		
I. "What are His credentials?"		
Result: Unbelief		
30	—	36

<b>4. BENEFITS FOR BELIEVERS</b>		
- Reception		
- Regeneration		
- Resurrection		
37	—	40

<b>5. WHO IS HE ?</b>		
II. "What is His origin?"		
Result: Uncertainty		
41	—	52

<b>6. RECEIVING THE BREAD OF LIFE</b>		
- Meaning		
- Result		
53	—	59

<b>7. REACTIONS:</b>		
Resistance		
60	—	65
Retreat		
66		
Reconfirmation		
67	—	71