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*Don't just hear the Word—live it! Read the focus passage, then dig into the guide independently or with a small group.*

**SERIES:** I'm Him

**MESSAGE TITLE:** Essential

**MESSAGE OVERVIEW:** Don't settle for less, Jesus is "Him." He is essential to our lives and our eternity. And, as amazing as they are, let's not get hung up on the miracles or the bread. He has even greater plans for us. The only things in our way are the roadblocks we make.

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** John 6:25-42

**BREAKING IT DOWN:**

1. This crowd is drifting. They went from looking for miracles and signs to seeking out their next meal. Jesus' response is plain—He is essential for life; more than a temporary fix. How had they settled in their hearts? What do you expect from Jesus?
2. Jesus compares working for food that perishes to food that lasts for eternity. Think of some examples of each. Which has the power to truly sustain, in this life and beyond? Which give our lives real meaning, fulfillment, and value?
3. The people ask Jesus for this life-giving bread, but then struggle to accept His answer. Some even left because they found the truth too hard to believe; it didn't fit neatly into the puzzle pieces they already had. What have you struggled with Jesus about? What truths have been hard for you to accept?
4. Jesus is accessible to all—everyone who comes will be filled. What must we do to receive Him? Can we earn eternal life?
5. Beyond what God can do for us, we've got to understand that Jesus is God. He is the beginning and the end, Yahweh, Author and Creator of time itself. And He is trustworthy. See Jesus for who He is.

**WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:**

**Come** - Identify the plans you've been serving or directions you've been going that are all your own. Turn from "working for bread that perishes" to "food that lasts for eternal life."

**Believe** - Trust that He is who He says He is. The plans He has for you are real, and better than what you can accomplish without Him.

