

KNOWING GOD

Learning to be part
of God's story...

At Immanuel Christian
Elementary School

God is a mighty savior, a loving father, and a wise friend. Throughout the New Testament, God uses metaphors, prefaced by 'I Am', to describe who He is. This year at ICES we are studying these metaphors as we seek to know our God. In January Pastor Rohan Crown spoke at our chapel, sharing what it means for God to be the **Bread of Life**. This metaphor reminds us that we cannot live without God. Not only does he provide for our physical needs, but he provides a way to eternal life through Jesus work on the cross. Read and reflect on the following devotional as a family.



Bread for all Who are Hungry

Bread makes up a significant part of the daily diet of people around the world; it is a staple food item for many. Every culture seems to have their own unique take on bread: baguettes, pitas, naan, pan dulces, challah, matzo, tortillas, biscuits, focaccia...even mass-produced, pre-sliced, American white bread lining the grocery store shelves in branded cellophane.

But with the variety of breads available and the diverse ways we might eat bread, bread is not a boring food, despite its common nature. Consider these excellent bread-meals... The perfectly toasted onion bagel with a schmear of cream cheese and lox—delicious! Tearing off a chunk of that still-warm sourdough to sop up the last bit of clam chowder from your bowl—perfect! A thick slice of brioche French toast with real maple syrup—heavenly! And let's not kid ourselves...people might think that the toppings are what make the pizza, but if you have a bad crust (bread)...you aren't going to enjoy that pizza much, no matter what is on top.

Perhaps because of its ubiquity, bread symbolizes our need of sustenance, and thus bread features regularly in the Story of Scripture. The Israelites in Egypt, instructed to bake their bread without yeast at the Passover as God saves them from bondage (Exodus 12). God providing the Israelites with manna—bread from heaven—as they are wandering through the wilderness (Exodus 16). Future-king David, on the run from Saul, eating the Bread of the Presence from the Tabernacle (1 Samuel 21:1-6). Ezekiel baking a most-unusual bread while in exile, demonstrating God's judgment on his people, but also his provision for their needs (Ezekiel 4). Bread demonstrates God's love and care for his people: God knows what they need, and God provides for them, no matter their circumstances.

Jesus uses bread in his teachings, parables, and miracles. When tempted by the Devil to turn stones into food, Jesus responds by quoting scripture: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:1-4). When teaching his disciples to pray, he includes the phrase, "Give us today our daily bread" (Matthew 6:5-15). One of his amazing miracles involves breaking five loaves of bread and two fish, and providing enough food for 5,000 men (Luke 9:10-17). And...here in John 6, Jesus refers to himself as bread: "I am the Bread of Life." Jesus—God in human flesh—knows our physical and spiritual hungering. Jesus knows that we need bread for sustenance: the Bread of the Presence, Our Daily Bread, the Bread from Heaven.

When we are hungry, bread satisfies. God provided bread for his people throughout their history, supplying for them in their need and when they could not provide for themselves. Perhaps, then, it should be no wonder that at the last supper, Jesus speaks to his disciples—and to us too—“This is my body...take and eat.”

What are you hungering for? Are you looking for the Bread that will truly satisfy?

By David Mulder (From 'In All Things' a Dordt University publication: <https://inallthings.org/i-am-the-bread-of-life/>)

Time to Talk!

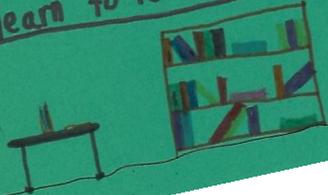
- ✓ How is God like our 'bread of life'?
- ✓ Are we hungry for God? What does it look like to be hungry for God?
- ✓ How can we share God's love and goodness with others?

STUDENT CORNER

How are ICES students beginning 2020?

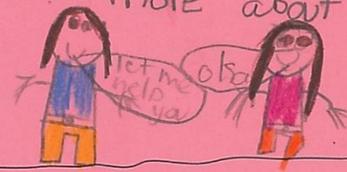
As we began the new year, students in grades four and five reflected on what it means to begin a new year focused on growing in God. Instead of making resolutions, they wrote their 'deep hopes' – their deepest desires for how they can serve others, love God, and grow as a person this year.

My deep hope ...
is to help others and
learn to read better.



My deep hope ... is to: think
more about helping and serving
others and learning more
about how I can help as I grow
in mind and in heart.

My deep hope ...
I want to love God and
care for others and
learn more about God.



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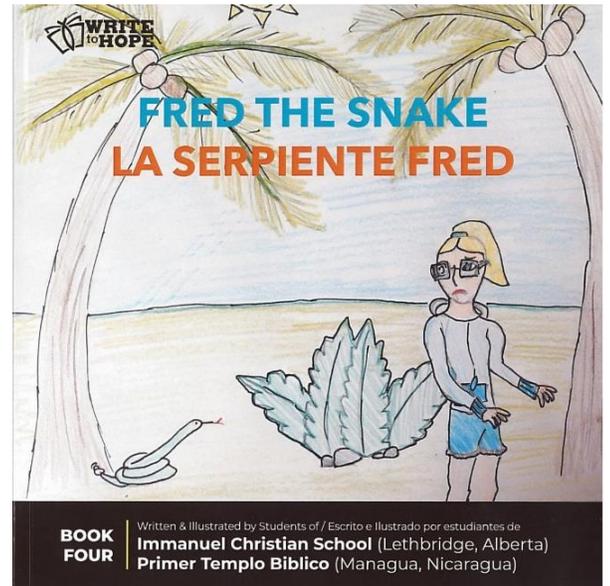
OUR DEEP HOPES!

Grade 4&5

Introducing 'Fred the Snake'

A collaboration between Canada and Nicaragua!

Edu Deo is a Canadian mission organization that believes Christian education can transform our world. They serve children in developing countries by supporting the implementation of quality education with a Christian worldview. One of the ways they serve schools is through fundraising for local projects. A creative and community focused initiative is the 'Write to Hope' program, which connects elementary students from around the world. 'Write to Hope' brings together students from Canada and EduDeo partner programs to jointly write and illustrate a children's book. Taking turns to write the story, the students are challenged to explore what life is like in each other's cultural context, as they learn to appreciate the similarities and differences we face.



During the 2018-2019 school year, grade five students at Immanuel Christian Elementary partnered with students from Primer Templo Biblico in Nicaragua to write and illustrate 'Fred the Snake,' a story of bravery and friendship. The current grade six class at Immanuel Christian Secondary is pleased to announce that copies of 'Fred the Snake' are now available! All proceeds from book sales will go to support the continued work of Primer Templo Biblico.



Primer Templo Biblico is an ACECEN school with 169 students from pre-school to grade eight. Its commitment is to contribute to the students' academic and spiritual education based on Christian principles; teach them to become people with faith, values and respect, who care for God's world and are faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Cost = \$20 (Available at the ICES office)

Please note, all books will be autographed by the authors!

