



Summitview
CHURCH

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2016 AIM Resource Booklet

LET'S FEAST

“Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”
1 Kings 19:7

Everyday we experience the cycle of hunger and satisfaction, need and provision. Into the creation, God has written a simple message: We hunger for what God provides. But the human struggle is a struggle of trust. Everyday we struggle to believe that God desires to provide for our hunger. We live with a temptation to abandon God's promises and satisfy our hunger our way.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? (MATTHEW 6:25-27)

God did not create us, redeem us and commission us only to then abandon us. He is with us, providing what we need to follow him. God is not stingy. In our hunger, God provides a feast far better than the fleeting morsels we scrape together for ourselves.

*Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for
that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live . . . (ISAIAH 55:1-3)*

This is how grace comes to us and, in this grace, Jesus' power is made perfect. “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Over the past three years, God has refined our calling as a church. He has called us to be present in our city representing Jesus and to be distinctive in our city following Jesus. It is a beautiful, glorious calling. It is also a difficult calling that will require our best.

To sustain us along the way, we have gospel food. In Christ, God delights in us and works all things together for our good. He has promised to finish what he has started. He has supplied our need. In 2016, our life together will be a feast on that food.

FIND YOUR SEAT

This little booklet is designed to help you do just that. To enjoy the feast, we need to see where we prefer fast food. We all need the Spirit to help us evaluate our hunger, to whet our appetite for the richness of God's food. Feasting begins with receiving, and this booklet is about giving the Spirit opportunity to cleanse your palate.

Two things as you begin:

1. Feel free to work through this booklet at your own pace — all at once, over the course of multiple sessions, on your own, with your spouse or family, or with your small group.
2. When you see the “FEAST” emblem, take note of the resources listed there. They'll help you enjoy the food God has prepared for you.



MORSELS

*Why do you spend your money
for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy? (ISAIAH 55:2)*

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes
from the mouth of God.” (MATTHEW 4:4)*

Necessity and delight drive us to eat. Duty does not. In fact, if some sort of duty drives us to eat, we typically see that as a sign of un-health. Similarly, if God is an item on the to-do list, something is wrong. God’s creativity, his absolute sovereignty and his perfect love and mercy are meant to be our food. Our souls “hunger” to find their satisfaction in him. If we ignore this, the hunger does not go away. We simply grab other food – morsels that leave us hungrier still. Now, many of these morsels aren’t wrong, per se, but resting our life and joy on them will lead to many disappointments and destructive behaviors.

Consider these hungers and the morsels we use to satisfy them.

HUNGER	MORSELS
Love/Affirmation	Relationships, comparison, manipulation, sexuality, physical appearance, pornography
Respect	Performance, achievement, pornography
Security	Money, power, popularity
Beauty	Snobbery, excess, pornography
Comfort	Entertainment, alcohol, drugs, food, pornography

What are the prominent hungers in your life? How do you seek to satisfy them?

HUNGER	MORSELS

*Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
declares the Lord,
for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.
(JEREMIAH 2:12-13)*

God wants to satisfy these hungers himself. We receive his provision through prayer, the Word and each other.



DIG IN
The Expulsive Power of a New Affection
by Thomas Chalmers

Desiring God by John Piper

PRAYER

THE FEAST RECEIVED

How should we pray? What should we pray? Why? It seems right to assume that Jesus' disciples had similar questions when they asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). He responded with a parable (Luke 11:2-13) to answer the "what" of prayer: Pray persistently for the Holy Spirit. Here's the "why": Jesus reveals in John 16 that the Holy Spirit is given to glorify him and to take what is his and declare it to us.

Jesus offers a feast — nourishment for a joy-filled life as his disciples. Though we will suffer, God delights in us, and our future inheritance is secure (1 Peter 1:3-5). We are not alone in our suffering. Jesus suffered and he can empathize with your suffering. In fact, your suffering is precious to him. He holds your tears in a bottle (Psalm 56:8).

This is where our hungers are satisfied. We are accepted in the highest court. We are secure. We are not alone. But we forget. So Jesus instructs us to pray for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13) to bring full conviction of these things. This protects our hungry hearts from finding empty calories elsewhere. The Holy Spirit is our greatest gift from God and, so, Jesus invites us to pray for the Spirit's presence in our hearts.

Let's consider how this might shape your prayers this year.

1. Refer back to the list of prominent hungers in your life. Pray that God would reveal how, in Christ, God intends to satisfy these hungers. Some Scripture to remember as you do:

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. (PSALMS 119:37)

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (PSALMS 139:23-24)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (PSALMS 51:10-12)

2. Create a prayer list for 2016 by examining Luke 11:1-4: "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

a. "... hallowed be your name."

Praise for what God has done and is doing.

Ask for his name to be revered in your sphere of influence.

b. "Your kingdom come."

Ask God to bring the presence of his kingdom...

...in your family

...in your church

...in your sphere of influence

c. “Give us each day our daily bread . . .”

Ask God to provide daily bread for you and through you (through your vocation and your various acts of service to others).

d. “. . . forgive our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.”

Confess your sins regularly before God. Ask for the grace to forgive others. (Be specific here.)

e. “And lead us not into temptation.”

Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal the futility and destruction of sin and the satisfaction of knowing and obeying God.



DIG IN

A Praying Life by Paul Miller
Prayer by Timothy Keller

COMMUNITY MEALS

Worship and Prayer Nights, 7 p.m. in the Auditorium:
February 24, April 27, June 22, August 24 and October 26

SCRIPTURE

THE FEAST DESCRIBED

“But, now, beloved, our point is that much apparent Bible reading is not Bible reading at all. The verses pass under the eye, and the sentences glide over the mind, but there is no true reading. . . . The eye glances but the mind never rests. The soul does not light upon the truth and stay there. It flits over the landscape as a bird might do, but it builds no nest there, and finds no rest for the sole of its foot. Such reading is not reading. . . . Now, beloved, unless we understand what we read we have not read it; the heart of the reading is absent.” — C.H. SPURGEON, “HOW TO READ THE BIBLE”

While the Holy Spirit is given to guide us into hunger-satisfying truth, consistently studying the Bible will give him a vocabulary — an expanded menu, if you will. We need the written revelation of God to continually reinforce that “he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23).

Reading the Bible should not be a drive-through-window kind of thing. It should be a five-course meal to be thoughtfully and carefully enjoyed. Even if this means foregoing a one-year reading plan, let’s make a memorable meal out of God’s Word.

Here are some thoughts to get you started.

1. Schedule a time where you can consistently and thoughtfully read the Bible.
2. Consider using a Bible reading plan — you can find a handful at summitview.com/grow/bible.
3. What passages/verses would you like to memorize this year? Create an attainable plan. Start with a short list (four to six verses/passages).
4. Here’s a set of questions to ask of every passage you read. Place these in a journal to refer to throughout the year. A journal is an excellent way to “work out” what you are learning as you read.



What is the setting of this passage? Who would have originally read it?
What was happening?

What does the structure (repeated words, dialogue, words like “so that,” “because,” “for,” “therefore”) reveal about the “big idea” of the passage?

How do the “big ideas” fit into the book you’re reading? How does it fit into the rest of the Bible? Consider Luke 24:27 as a guide: “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself [Jesus].”

What does it reveal about God?

What does it reveal about humanity (and our need for Jesus)?

What does the truth demand in terms of your attitudes and behavior?



DIG IN

One-to-One Bible Reading by David Helm

Matthias Media’s Bible study library, GoThereFor, available at summitview.com/grow/bible

COMMUNITY MEALS

Consider putting the Word at the center of a Life Transformation Group (LTG). Learn more about LTGs at summitview.com/connect/small-groups/ltg.

Memory Madness is a Bible-memorization community at Summitview. Dave Marsh leads it, and it typically runs during the school year.

COMMUNITY

THE FEAST TOGETHER

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (COLOSSIANS 3:12-17)

A feast isn’t possible by yourself, and the gospel food that God gives to us is meant to be enjoyed with others. What steps can you take this year to make Colossians 3:12-17 more descriptive of your friendships with other Christians?



DIG IN

“Our Churches Should Feel Like Heaven on Earth’:
On Gospel Doctrine and Gospel Culture”
— by Trevor Sides, summitview.com/blog

COMMUNITY MEALS

Summitview’s small groups give you a place to feast with other believers. Learn more and find your group at summitview.com/small-groups.



APPLICATION

THE FEAST MATTERS

Over the last few years, God has refined our sense of calling as a church. To be present and distinct, God has guided us in answering three questions: What is our “business”? What is our aim? What values guide us?

So, as a local gathering of believers...

Summitview is in the business of:

- » Making disciples who
 - Make disciples of all peoples
 - Seek the good of their city

Summitview is aiming for:

- » A healthy, missional group in every sphere of life in Fort Collins (neighborhood, school, subculture, etc.)
- » God-initiated churches planted with the addition of every 150 members
- » Becoming a leader (by example) in the Fort Collins Church Network and Great Commission Churches

Summitview will be guided by:

- » Loving like Jesus:
 - Love God with everything (Worship, Mission, Growth, Faith)
 - Love neighbors as ourselves (Church, Leadership, Relationships, Service, City)

Working through this booklet is not some academic exercise. Your feasting matters. Jesus wants to take your satisfaction in him and use it to glorify himself in our city. He will accomplish this. His Spirit will empower you to be both present and distinct.

All he wants is for you to feast.

So, take courage. Feast joyfully in 2016. If you want to combine some of your notes from earlier in this booklet, streamline your prayer list, state some goals/action plans or simply write out a prayer to your Father about the year to come, use the next two pages to do so.

Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

