**Summer Series** 

# Metaphors for God

"Metaphors are a way of talking about one thing while describing another...Metaphors think with the imagination and the senses, the hot chili peppers in them explode in the mouth and the mind."

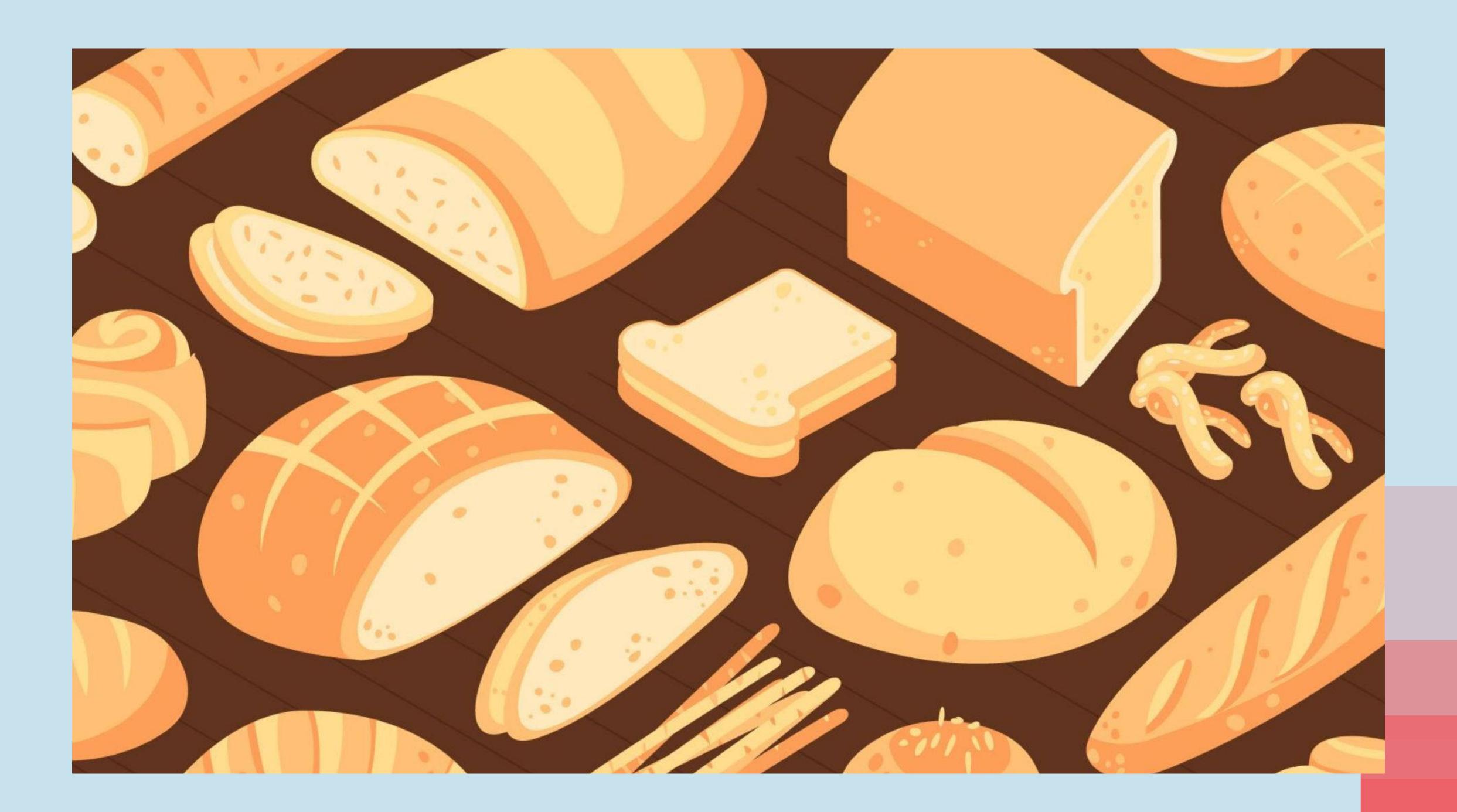
Jane Hirshfield

## Metaphors help connect the spiritual to the ordinary, breathing new life into our ways of being





A meditation app made in collaboration with Artisan Church's 'Metaphors for God' sermon series.





#### This is not a loaf of bread

This is daily sanctuary
This is breakfast in bed
Or beans on toast for tea.

This is not a loaf of bread This is shared community This is a soup-dipped crust Or a picnic lunch for three. This is not a loaf of bread
This is tasty alchemy
This is a gravy soaker-upper
Or a gourmet chip butty.

This is the not a loaf of bread This is a crafted recipe Of sun and rain and earth And oven-baked poetry.

Polly Hall

## This is not a loaf of bread, this is shared community

"Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted."

(John 6:11, MSG)

"It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of table fellowship for the cultures of the first century. Mealtimes were far more than occasions for individuals to eat. Being welcomed at a table for the purpose of eating food with another person became a ceremony richly symbolic of friendship, intimacy and unity."

**Scott Barclay** 



'Jesus Feeds the 5000' by Laura James (Ethiopian style)



'Loaves and Fishes' by John August Swanson

Jesus as bread means that we are all welcome in the kingdom of God.

There are no barriers to entry, simply to come to him.





### Jesus is the one who is inviting us to eat, He is the one setting the table

"I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

(John 6:35, NIV)

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

(John 6:51, NIV)

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them."

(John 6:56, NIV)

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them." (John 6:56, NIV)

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches..."

(John 15:4-5, ESV)

"John's gospel is introducing people to a kind of eating in which abiding is possible and transformative. To eat the 'bread of life' is not to absorb, and thereby abolish, this bread but to be altered by it..."

Norman Wirzba (1/2)

"Persons who feed on Jesus are challenged to relate to others in a new way. Rather than engaging them primarily in utilitarian terms, absorbing them to suit personal need and satisfaction, eaters of Jesus are invited to extend his ministries of attention and welcome, feeding and forgiving, and healing and reconciliation."

Norman Wirzba (2/2)

"God could be located in experience, sensed through bodies, tasted in food...my body was connected literally and mysteriously to other bodies and loved without reason."

Sara Miles



'Jesus Feeds the 5000' by Laura James (Ethiopian style)