

### **Week three**

Garlicky or otherwise, we eat bread every day. It's nothing remarkable. Like all food, it ties us firmly to life. Look at the people Jesus heals who immediately reconnect with food: Peter's mother-in-law, Jairus's daughter. Look at Jesus on the shore, cooking a fish for his friends' breakfast. Look at the two on the Emmaus road, inviting their mysterious new friend to eat supper with them.

Take and eat, Jesus says, and let your simple bread become me. Don't let a single thing in your life, however ordinary a thing it may be, remain untouched by your new life in me. Don't think for a moment that it is an ordinary thing; there are no ordinary things. Allow your eternal life to transform this life, so that the two are one thing, a seamless garment.

### **Cinnamon-raisin loaves**

Dissolve 1/2 cup sugar and 2 packages dry yeast in 3 1/2 cups warm water, 3 tbsp oil and 1 tsp salt in a large bowl. Stir to mix. Let stand 5 minutes. Add 8 cups flour; knead, adding flour as necessary to make soft dough. Place in large greased bowl and grease entire surface of dough. Cover with damp dish towel and let rise in warm place until double in size, about an hour.

Punch down; divide into 4 pieces. Flour surface, roll out each to about a 9"x 13" rectangle. Spray surface with water. Mix 1/2 cup sugar and 1 tbsp cinnamon in small bowl and sprinkle generously over dough, then sprinkle evenly with raisins, about 1/4 cup per loaf. Roll dough with short side to form loaf, and pinch ends together to seal in filling. Place seam down in greased 4"x 8" loaf pan. Brush top with butter. Let rise until double in size.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Bake 25 minutes. Remove from oven and brush with butter again while hot. Let sit for 10 15 minutes and remove from pans. Cool loaves on rack.

### ***Or make garlic bread instead:***

Reduce the first 1/2 cup sugar to 1 tbsp and use olive oil instead of vegetable oil. After rolling rectangles, brush each with olive oil and 1 tbsp finely minced fresh garlic instead of sugar/cinnamon mixture, leaving out the raisins. Brush with oil instead of butter. Bellissimo.

