

Week 20
February 1, 2009

Group and Family Study Guide
One Very Active Ingredient
Matthew 13:33

1. READ Matthew 13:33.
2. Do you have any stories to tell about a time that you tried to bake a cake or bread, and it didn't rise? Any other funny cooking stories?
3. Yeast is actually a tiny fungus, and it exerts its influence in ways far beyond its modest size. How is the gospel of the kingdom like that?
4. What are the *additives*, along with the gospel itself (practices, experiences, habits, influences), that have been very catalytic for your spiritual growth? For example, I know a few people who have recently begun reading the Bible every day with remarkable benefits. What about you?
5. Keith mentioned several types of religious "dough" that "just don't rise." He gave the examples of legalism, bibliolatry (the worship of the Bible), behavioralism, philosophical/ethical Christianity, churchianity, compartmentalization, one-among-many-ism, and Christianity as a self-help program. Is there one of these, or another lesser type of almost-Christian religion, that you've seen or experienced that has been a poor substitute for the "real, fermentative, transformative" walk with Christ?

10. If one proof of a yeasty life is the gifts of the spirit alive and active, do you know your spiritual gifts? How to you employ them?

11. If one proof of a life “on the rise” is compassion and advocacy for the less-advantaged, is that true in you? What is the outlet or focus for that compassion?

12. Finally, there is a reproductive quality to this dynamic life. Talk about a friend that you know who has that quality? What does it look like? How does it affect others, and you?

For the hardcore group:

Some people seem to be “in Christ” and in church for the whole of their lives and yet haven’t experienced this yeasty life. What needs to happen in any good fellowship to “knead the yeast” into the whole dough?

What needs to happen in a person’s own life to make sure, through all of the seasons of life, that the whole dough is yeasty?