

## **FRENCH AGAPE MEAL: THE MANNA STORY**

### **LEADER:**

Taste and see that God is good, that God is the Provider!

*Explanation about the Agape concept.*

Today we will celebrate such a love feast à la française. We will not celebrate the eucharist but use symbols to echo the story we have just heard about. Normally, during the meal there is informal conversation in Christian fellowship. Today, we will take the opportunity to share spontaneous testimonies about God's provision in our lives. This meal is an opportunity to share food both physical and spiritual as we eat together and share testimonies and celebrate our God who is the provider.

On your tables, you have french baguette. "Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (John 6.32-33).

This bread is a symbol of the life that comes from God. We will eat it and remember that God is the provider and sustainer of our lives.

**All: Yes God, you are the provider.**

### **LEADER:**

On your table you also have some cheese. "The LORD said, "I have come down to rescue my people and to bring them into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey." (Exodus 3:8)

This cheese, made out of milk, reminds us of the goodness of God's promises. It reminds us of God's extravagant love that he lavishes on us.

**All: God, your love is amazing!**

### **LEADER:**

And finally, there is water-sparkling. Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be

thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

(John 4.13-14)

This water as a symbol of the abundant life, love, and friendship shown to us through the example Jesus who is the Christ.

**All: Jesus, give us your living water!**

### **LEADER:**

Let us now enjoy this meal around the tables while we share with one another our own personal testimonies about God's provision.

### **Table Host:**

*Pour the water for each person.*

Let us raise our glasses, the French way.

I will say in French: "*To the King, until He comes*" and you can repeat this in English.

**"Au Roi, jusqu'à ce qu'il vienne!"**

**All: "To the King, until He comes!"**

*Pass the bread and the cheese. Then eat, drink and talk about God's provision. The table host should encourage the people to share their testimonies of God's provision, but also the struggles of trusting God for provision in times of doubt. Prayer can be offered informally for those who struggle.*

### **LEADER:**

"Blessed are you, our Lord and our God, King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth, who springs forth water, who leads us in a land filled with honey and milk. We acknowledge with thankful hearts that you are the provider and sustainer of our lives. And we see your love in the way you care for us in the small everyday things of our lives.

Nous te remercions, Père, de ta providence. Nous confessons avec des coeurs reconnaissants que tu es celui qui subvient à nos besoins et tu es la source de nos vies. Nous voyons ton amour comme tu prends soin de chaque détail dans nos vies.

**All: Amen"**



