

GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Individuals or groups may enjoy working through this content while having fellowship at home, while away on summer vacation, or in a Connect Group. We'll provide updated content from week to week this summer.

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SUMMMARY

This section of the Lord's Prayer invites us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." With this, we are focusing on three major themes:

- 1. A Call to Gratitude**
- 2. A Call to Asking**
- 3. A Call to Worship**

Before we dive into these particulars, we should first be moved at a heart and soul level at how beautifully bizarre Jesus is to immediately shift from "On earth as it is in Heaven" to "Our Daily Bread." We should be overwhelmed by God's kindness that He is not only ushering grand, cosmic redemption, but he is concerned about

tomorrow morning's breakfast. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said about this stunning shift in tone:

“Is not this one of the most wonderful things in the whole of Scripture, that the God who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the God who is forming His eternal kingdom and who will usher it in at the end, the God to whom the nations are but as the small dust of the balance - that such a God should be prepared to consider your little needs and mine even down to the minutest details in this matter of daily bread!”

But that is the teaching of our Lord everywhere. He tells us that even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without our Father and that we are of much greater value than many sparrows. He says that the very hairs of your head are all numbered. If only we could grasp this fact, that the almighty Lord of the universe is interested in every part and portion of us! There is not a hair of my head that He is not concerned about, and the smallest and most trivial details in my little life are known to Him on His everlasting throne.

This is something you find only in Scripture. You go straight from “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” to “Give us this day our daily bread!”

We exist to help connect Jesus to people, people to community, and community to God's mission. Here are a few insights about how The Lord's Prayer connects to our mission as a church. Let's discuss this text and the process of prayer.

JESUS TO PEOPLE...

As mentioned above, praying “Give us this day our daily bread” invites us to practice gratitude, asking, and worship towards God. We practice gratitude that God is not only concerned with providing for our most basic needs, but we can recount His long legacy in our own stories of having provided (Psalm 9:1). We practice asking to obey what Jesus tells us to do - that we are meant to ask God for what we need and marvel that He hears us and gives us what we ask. We practice worship by recognizing anytime Jesus mentions bread, He called himself the “Bread of Life” (John 6:35), offering himself as provision for our greatest need - the forgiveness of our sins and making a way for reconciliation back to God.

...PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY...

As mentioned prior in our series, the language throughout this prayer is plural - it is intended to be prayed in the community. Often, we can interpret v. 11 as, “Give me my daily bread,” when really we are commanded to pray it in the plural. Practicing gratitude is a communal exercise, as we can spot in one another's lives God's provision and mercies. Practicing asking is a communal exercise, as we can

make petition and intercession on behalf of one another for what we want and need. Practicing worship is a communal exercise, as it is the chief reason we gather together on a Sunday.

...COMMUNITY TO MISSION

In our culture of excess, it's easy to see life through the lens of what we don't have rather than what we have received (sometimes called "the disease of more.") This posture leaves people perpetually dissatisfied with life, self, others, and God. Gratitude is not merely a nice tradition to remember around certain holidays, but actually a gift from God to declare war on the "disease of more." Becoming a deeply grateful, non-anxious people in response to our awareness that God is a kind, generous giver is a powerful apologetic in our current cultural moment and puts on display the living hope we have in the Gospel. This is a tangible way to "give reason for the hope we have" (1 Peter 3:15).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Do you see your life more through what you don't have rather than all you have received? How does embracing one perspective practically impact your life over the other?
2. What are some ways you (or somebody you know) regularly practice gratitude for all God has provided? What do you notice about someone who consistently exhibits gratitude?
3. How does God's past faithfulness stir up confidence for His future provision?
4. When you have a need, do you tend to lean more towards anxiety (e.g. mentally reaching into the future in an attempt to control the uncontrollable) or asking? When is the last time you simply talked to God about what you want or need?
5. How does Jesus' declaration that He is the "bread of life" give us confidence that He will provide for our daily bread?
6. Why do you think Jesus tells us to ask God for what we need (Matt 6:11) immediately after telling us God already knows what we need (Matt. 6:8)?
7. What is one practical want/need in your life that you need to ask God to make provision for?

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