

# Sermon Discussion Guide

## The Prayer of Dependence Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer – Part 3

*“Give us today our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11 NIV*

The “bread” we are asking God for in this verse from The Lord's Prayer represents everything we need for survival. There are at least four things “bread” represents:

- **The Necessities of Life** - God provides whatever your body needs to live. This doesn't mean we don't need to work for what we have. Work is part of God's purpose for us. Even in the wilderness, the manna had to be picked up. See Psalm 104:25-28, Proverbs 14:23, and Titus 3:14.
- **The Wisdom of God's Word** – Bread is a symbol for Scripture, as in “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). See Deuteronomy 8:3 and Proverbs 8:34-36.
- **The Support of God's Family** – Breaking bread together is a metaphor for the church and a term for fellowship. See 1 Corinthians 10:16, Acts 2:42, and Acts 2:46.
- **Our Salvation in Jesus** – At the Last Supper, Jesus himself chose bread to represent his body, broken for our salvation. See Luke 22:19.

With these forms of provision in mind, how are we to depend on God during times of crisis? This week, we'll look at three answers.

Open your group with a prayer. This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DEPEND ON GOD?

#### 1. SEEING GOD AS MY SOURCE.

According to Matthew 6:11, what does God do with our daily bread?

- What are the things you **need** in order to survive? Can we provide these for ourselves? How does this affect our view of God?

What will God supply to us, as promised in Philippians 4:19?

- Are there things that people think God can't provide? What are they and why do people think God would not be able to provide them?
- What evidence do we have that God can supply us with everything we need?

Based on Matthew 7:11, what can we expect from God, our Father?

- What provisions might people not want to provide for their children?
- Discuss how the sacrifices God has made for us lead us to believe that he will provide for us.

In order to receive these things what must we do, according to James 4:2?

- What sources do people depend on other than God?
- Jesus tells us to ask, seek, and knock. What prevents us from doing this on a moment by moment basis in our daily lives? How can we overcome those barriers and learn to seek God regularly?

**Worship** – When we worship God we acknowledge him as the center of our lives. Take a moment to quietly think about whether God is at the center of your life and if he is the source (...of everything) in your life. If not, what is your source? During the week, read these verses that discuss how God is a source for all aspects of life. As you read, keep asking yourself, “What is my source?”

“God is the source of all life ...” Numbers 16:22

Source of Wisdom (Psalms 36:9) Happiness (Psalms 43:4) Strength (Isaiah 48:5)

Patience (Hosea 15:5), Encouragement (Romans 15:5) Hope (Romans 15:13)

Peace (Romans 15:33) Salvation (Hebrews 5:9)

## **2. TRUSTING HIM FOR TODAY.**

How often should we expect the necessities of life to be available, according to Matthew 6:11?

There are four things we should do in Philippians 4:6-8. What are they?

Read Matthew 6:34. What does Jesus tell us not to do?

- This is often the hardest command in the Bible for us to follow. It's been said that to disobey this command is "practical atheism." Why is that so and what can we do to work on improving our ability to follow this command?

Who is against us, according Romans 8:32? What is the condition that makes this so?

- What can we do to have continual conversation with God throughout our day?

What shall we tell others about God? See Psalm 71:15?

- What examples do we have in our world of God's goodness?

God will keep whom in perfect peace according to Isaiah 26:31?

- We are able to think about God and what is good by reading and learning about the Word of God. A few of you share examples of successful strategies for spending time reading the Bible and focusing on God.

## **3. SHARING WHATEVER HE GIVES.**

Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-12. According to these verses, why are we made rich? What does God expect us to do with what he gives to us?

- How is a godly response on our part likely to affect those who receive what we share? What about those who simply see what we do?

Describe the kind of behavior that pleases God, as recorded in Isaiah 58:7-9. What is God's promise to us when we open our hearts to meet the needs of others?

- Why do you think it is hard for us to obey this command, especially during difficult times? What does this say about our ability to trust God?
- How can we learn to think in terms of "ours" and not "my"?
- Should we share with others simply to receive what God has promised us? What does a godly motivation for sharing look like to you?
- Look back at the end of this passage. What are five promises from God to those who generously share with others?

Read Ecclesiastes 11:1. What does God do for the one who gives freely to him?

- Where else in Scripture do we read about someone generously sharing what little he had and God multiplying the provision?

How does Proverbs 11:24 contrast the generous heart from the selfish?

- Share a time when you have seen this principle in action, either in your own life or someone else's.

**Fellowship, Ministry, Mission** – Take a few minutes to review how God allows us to be his hands and feet in meeting the daily needs of others.

- When we function together as a body of Christ, we are essentially a family. How can we share in **fellowship** with God's family? Give some examples from your own experience. Plan a time for your group to share communion together in honor of God's provision.
- As Christians, God also asks us to be his ministers, caring for the needs of the body. Explain how God has allowed you to share what he has given you in **ministry**, or how you plan to minister to his church in the future.
- Beyond our service to the family of God, we have a **mission** to share his Good News with the lost world around us. As a group, discuss how you will take his message outside your walls.