

- **Participation- God’s invitation into His reality.** The first half of the Lord’s Prayer reminds us of God’s reality; His Kingdom and His will. The second half is our invitation to live in that reality and to be faithful in it.

What differences would you find between a prayer that attempts to conform God to what we think He should do and this prayer, that entrusts our daily needs in the hands of a good Father?

WRAP-UP

When Jesus taught us how to pray, He included big bold prayers like “Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. God wants us to pray passionately and confidently in alignment with Him. But Jesus also included simple everyday prayers for our subsistence, our everyday necessities, our daily bread. God cares about us, even the little details in our lives. He delights in being with us every moment of our day. He loves to give us good gifts. Don’t neglect including God in the details of your life. When you do, you will find your relationship with Him deepen and your understanding of His character will grow.

MEMORY VERSE

...give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.

-Proverbs 30:8b NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge – Intentionally include God throughout your day this week. Pause to pray when you prepare your meal. Talk to Him as you gaze into the night sky. When to lay your head down at night, invite Him to speak to you as you sleep. Let God into all the areas of your life.

Kingdom Come to Daily Bread

Teach Us to Pray #4

INTRODUCTION

What do we need to include in our prayers? When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, he began by recognizing that we have a Holy Heavenly Father. Then He established that God’s will is ultimately the goal of our prayers- not having our will to be done. And we know we are aligned with God’s will when we seek to have His Kingdom established on the earth. But at this point in His prayer Jesus instructs us to seek “our daily bread” from our Father. This must have seemed to the disciples like an insignificant thing to pray. Really, does Jesus want us to bother God with such a mundane request as this? Shouldn’t we spend our time tearing down spiritual strongholds and moving mountains to advance the Kingdom? Does God actually care about the little things in our lives? It seems that He does.

Ice Breaker

Was your most recent prayer about your everyday needs or something more monumental?

Key Passage

Luke 11:3 NLT - 3 Give us each day the food we need,

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. God Cares about us

When we reach the point in the Lord’s Prayer where we ask God to “Give us this day our daily bread” we have already established that He is our Father. When we ask for our daily bread, we are recognizing God as our provider from sunup to sundown. No matter what it is, God provides for our every need.

What objections might you expect when you tell someone to depend on God for everything? Is there anything you believe God expects you to take care of on your own?

We don't have to compartmentalize our prayers. We don't lead a secular life during the workday and a kingdom life on Sundays. Jesus tells us to pray for our bread daily. The idea expressed in this phrase is asking for our necessary provision, our subsistence.

James 1:17 NLT - 17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

Why do you think God wants us to pray for our needs each day, not each week or each season? What do you think we might miss out on when we rely on ourselves to take care of our everyday needs rather than coming to God for them? How does involving God in our everyday decisions change our understanding of our relationship to Him and how He feels towards us?

2. What Happens When We Pray

Philippians 4:6 NLT - 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Sometimes we are so focused on the prayers God hasn't answered that we miss the many good things He has done for us. Philippians 4:6 gives us simple instructions. First stop worrying. Then pray about everything- big and small. Depend on God from sunrise to sunset. Finally, be grateful.

- **Present in every moment-** When we stop worrying and instead pray about everything, we will recognize that God is with us in every moment and every situation. As a result, we should feel drawn to express our gratitude in the everyday blessings we might have previously failed to see.
 - *Think about all the little things that God has blessed you with today- the morning sun as it crested the horizon, the comfort of a soft blanket and warm bed last night, the*

first buds of wildflowers opening on the hillsides. What can you add to this list of God's myriad blessings?

- **Persistence shaped by relationship. -**
 - *How do you think God views your persistent prayers? What is His attitude towards your constant and routine appeals?*Your own experience with your earthly parents may have shaped your viewpoint about God's response to persistence. God is not annoyed when you persist in coming to Him. He delights in giving you good gifts and displaying His love again and again. You are His beloved child.
- **Perspective- redefine what's necessary. -**If we agree that God provides for our daily needs, we might find that we must redefine what is necessary for us in the moment. It is easy to confuse our wants with our needs. What standard are we using to measure our needs? Is it God's standard or the cultural standard?

Exodus 16:18 NLT - 18 But when they measured it out, everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed.

- *God provided manna in the wilderness for His people. The manna spoiled if kept overnight. But what does Exodus 16:18 reveal about the sufficiency of God's provision?*

Sometimes, when we think that we don't have what we need, it's because God sees a greater need we didn't realize was there. For example- If you think you need more income, and God doesn't increase your income, what might He be teaching you and how is that meeting a spiritual need you didn't recognize? When we submit to God's reign in our lives, we must trust that He knows our needs better than we know ourselves. It requires us to release control and put our trust in Him. Have you experienced situations that required more trust and less control?

Proverbs 30:8-9 NLT - 8 First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. 9 For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.

Proverbs 30 recognizes the pitfalls of having too much or too little. What is the most important thing that motivates the writer of this Proverb? Are you honestly willing to sacrifice wealth for character?