

THE LORD'S PRAYER – MATTHEW 6:9-13

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

In our last two sessions, we have considered the Lord's Prayer – this was the prayer Jesus gave to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray. It's a great prayer in its own right, but it's also an amazing model for us in how to pray, for thinking through what should be our priority when we come to God in prayer.

The first week, we considered our Father in heaven, how awesome it is that God adopted us as children, so that we could approach him as a father, and also how important it is to magnify his name, to remember how incredibly great that name is, and how it contains everything we need.

Then the second week, we looked at *your kingdom come and your will be done, on this earth as it is in heaven*. How amazing that we could see a bit of God's kingdom here on this earth, even before Jesus comes again. That's something we're supposed to be a part of, bringing that kingdom here on the earth. And then there was the perhaps more difficult 'your will be done' part. That's definitely not always an easy prayer – we know that following God's will for our lives won't necessarily be easy, but it is absolutely the best place for us to be.

This week we're considering the third line of this amazing prayer:

Give us today our daily bread.

What does this line of the prayer mean? Is it all about food?

What do / don't you pray for?

Why do you think this line of the prayer comes after the first two lines?

Why is the prayer for our daily *bread*, not for a daily feast of all our favourite foods?



Continuing to look at the words used in this line of the prayer, why do you think Jesus said give us *today* our *daily* bread. Why only ask for bread for today?

Read Matthew 6:33-34

What do these verses tell us about our future?

Do we trust God for our future needs, or do we keep bringing them up to him when we pray? Is it wrong to pray for the future as well as the present?

Read Exodus 16:11-20

What do you think God was teaching the people of Israel by only providing them with enough food for one day at a time?

Have you ever found that to be the way that God works? Giving you enough for now, but not more than you need right now?

It's interesting that this prayer Jesus gave to his disciples starts with 'Our Father,' not 'My Father.' Likewise, here the line says 'Give us,' and not 'Give me.' Why might this be?

How can all of this change the way we pray for the things we need? What does it mean to practically pray for our daily bread?



This all sounds really good – even the way it’s phrased is *give us today our daily bread*, not, ‘please God, if you don’t mind, I’d really appreciate some bread today.’ It’s almost a command: give us. What does that mean when the things we are praying for don’t happen? Should we keep praying for them?

Today’s handout contains a selection of verses about God meeting our needs. If you have time, look through those verses now. Consider how God works in our lives when we make requests to him. Continue musing on these verses through the coming weeks.

Remember though, it’s possible we can be in a great place spiritually and asking with all the right motivation, and still not seeing an answer to our prayers. Don’t be discouraged or think you’re doing something completely wrong, or that God simply doesn’t care about your situation. There is so much we don’t see and don’t recognise that God does and is doing, and he has promised in his Word that he will work all things together for our good.

It is amazing that our God cares about us enough to include this line in the prayer. It could have focussed only on God’s kingdom and will being done, but instead, Jesus lets us know that our God in heaven is so invested in our lives that he wants us to bring those requests for the things we need to him. God cares about the things we need day to day. What a hugely encouraging thought that is! Even in those moments where we feel that God is silent and not answering those requests we have prayed for time and again, still we can know that he absolutely cares about what is happening in our lives.

