

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

—We're continuing our study about prayer, and this week our attention is drawn to the petition where Jesus instructs us to ask God to "give us today our daily bread." For some people this "ask" is somewhat confusing because we live in a time and place where food appears to be readily available, so why should we have to ask for daily bread? However, it's very important for us to understand the biblical background of this and to put a proper perspective on what Jesus was emphasizing. So once again, in order to introduce this week's discussion questions, let's begin with a few quotations (some from the Bible and others from prominent Bible teachers) that should promote (& provoke) some beneficial conversation.

—"It's beneficial for us to remember that we're supposed to depend upon God for our protection, our provision, and for our daily bread."
—among others Tony Evans

—"Grace is available for each of us every day—our spiritual daily bread—but we've got to remember to ask for it with a grateful heart and not worry about whether there will be enough for tomorrow."
—several different people referring to Jesus' words in Matthew 6.

—"God gives us the ingredients for our daily bread, but he expects us to do the baking!" —Chip Ingram

—"Truth is, I think, if God just gave us our daily bread, many of us would be angry. 'That's all you're going to give me? You're just going to give me enough to sustain me for today? What about tomorrow or next year or 10, 20, 30 years from now? I want to know that I'm set up.' And yet Jesus says just pray for your daily provisions."
—Francis Chan

—Proverbs 30:7–9

7 Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die:

8 Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; **Feed me with the food that is my portion,**

9 **That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And dishonor the name of my God.**

—Without faith, it's impossible to please God! But, where we place our trust is always what's most important. Depending on anything or anyone besides God will lead us to trouble and turmoil.

—"If and when a horror turns up you will then be given Grace to help you. I don't think one is usually given it in advance. 'Give us our daily bread' (not an annuity for life) applies to spiritual gifts too; the little daily support for the daily trial. Life has to be taken day by day and hour by hour." —C. S. Lewis"

—"One secret of a fulfilling Christian life is living by the day. It's the long stretches that tire us. But really, there are no long stretches. Life does not come to us all at once. Tomorrow is not ours; but when it does come, God will supply both daily bread and daily strength."

—These questions are designed to motivate us to dig deeper into God's Word.

1) **Daily bread** seems to mean more than food, but we need to be careful about expanding the meaning beyond anything besides daily essentials for living. How does praying for God's provision of our daily essential impact and influence our spiritual maturity/growth?

2) Using 1 Peter 5:6–7 along with Matthew 6:11, what benefits do you find in being intentional about asking for God to "give us each day our daily bread."?

3) Noting what Proverbs 10:3–5 expresses, what connection should we recognize between trusting the Lord for our daily essentials and making an appropriate effort to work in order to obtain them? There might be a cycle that we should acknowledge in how God's provision of what we need to live involves working or making a personal effort to receive the supply necessary for our existence. What thoughts do you have about this?

4) What should the instructions given to the Israelites and the events that followed in Exodus 16 teach us about praying for each day's supply of God's provision? Is it right —or— wrong to take advantage of a sale on food products in order to store up for the future? What should be our guide in knowing when we're crossing a line that indicates a lack of faith in the Lord's promises and provisions?

5) Using the sermon notes provided (or downloading the file on the church website giving the applications from the sermon) as time allows you to do this, please take some time to discuss how these truths are relevant and applicable to our daily lives.