

How to Pray: Provision  
Matthew 6:11 and 6:25-34  
October 21, 2018

### Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

### Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

### Ice Breaker!

My strategies for stress relief:

- A three hour social media session.
- A large bag of Oreo's and a cold glass of milk.
- Vacuum, vacuum, vacuum. Nah... .I'd never vacuum.
- Voting my boss off the island.
- A nap—followed by another nap.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What's your idea of an enjoyable, relaxing weekend?

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### Discussion!

#### Read Matthew 6:9-13:

*Matthew 6:9-13 ESV*

*[9] Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. [10] Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread, [12] and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus goes from praying for God's glory, His Kingdom, and His Will - its all directed towards God. The first thing we are told to pray for is our daily bread even before we are told to pray for our spiritual needs.

Is this surprising to you? Why or why not? What does this say about God? What does this say about us?

When we pray "give us this day our daily bread" there is more going on than meets the eye. We aren't asking God for a diet loaded with carbs even though we are asking God for "bread". There's way more going on. At the very least, there are two things going on that we might miss: this is a declaration of dependence and a prayer of confidence.

### 1. This is a declaration of dependence.

"Bread" refers to our needs like food, clothing, shelter. When we pray for our daily bread we are supposed to ask God to provide these most basic needs.

Question: How would praying for these most basic needs change your attitude about these things?

- I would remember that God is the one taking care of me.
- I would be thankful that my needs have been met.
- I would quit believing that I'm the one taking care of myself.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: In your opinion, what keeps people from displaying dependence on God?

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Praying for our daily bread also gives us permission to pray for small things. What small thing are you praying for?

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### Matthew 6:25-34

[25] "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [26] Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? [27] And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? [28] And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, [29] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not

arrayed like one of these. [30] But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [32] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34] "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

Question: What reasons does Jesus give in this passage for dependence? How does God show his care? Why can we be confident? What else do you see in this passage?

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### 2. This prayer is a cry of confidence.

Question: What reasons do we have for confidence?

- We have a Father in Heaven that loves us.
- He is in control of all things.
- He has the ability to take care of us.
- He wants to take care of us.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How is this sort of confidence different from "self-confidence"?

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Question: Which of these affects have you seen in your life? Which have you not seen in your life as a result of praying this prayer?

- Humility
- Thankful
- Entitlement has been killed
- Jealousy has been killed
- I'm learning contentment
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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