

Learning to Pray with Jesus: Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread

Matthew 6:11, Exodus 16:1-35 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 13 March 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is the most (geographically) lost you have ever been? What happened?

Worship: [Psalm 65](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?)

Sermon Summary for [Matt 6:11](#), [Ex 16:1-35](#) (Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

Prayer for our daily needs (for “daily bread,” as Jesus puts it) is how God intends to care for us. He wants us to lift our every need to Him, even seemingly trivial stuff. And He will continually and abundantly provide in response to these prayers. Because in prayer, we are in relationship and active conversation with our loving Father. And, because this is all to and for His glory. We see this dynamic of asking and receiving near the end of Paul’s letter to the Philippian church: “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ...And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen*” ([4:6,19](#)).

How not to approach daily bread prayers: A spirit of grumbling and complaining // God wants us to be real and present as we pray. Not wooden, distracted or inauthentic. But this isn’t an excuse to grumble. Like the Israelites in Exodus 16, when we grumble at God, we are ignoring (or just as bad: minimizing) the unmerited blessings of the Gospel we have received. We can look back on our lives and see how God moved to love and care for us... and yet we grumble. It’s a sign of unbelief. Left unchecked, such grumbling will lead to death, as it neglects the truth and power of Christ’s death and resurrection. God wants us to bring our burdens, longings, concerns, and even doubts to Him. And His grace is so deep that He will sort through our grumbling to help us recognize our true needs. Because we often aren’t asking for “daily bread”, instead selfishly looking to satisfy our earthly desires ([James 4:3](#)). Yet in response, God gives us more grace to teach us how to ask for the right things in the right way ([4:6](#)).

How to approach daily bread prayers: Seeking and gathering daily // God provides for our daily needs as we seek them in prayer. Why does He do things this way? Why not just give us everything we need all at once, so we don’t have to worry? Because our greatest daily need is dependence on Him, trusting Him, relying on Him. This is our great privilege as His children ([Luke 11:11-13](#)). Sometimes these prayers will get answered quickly – and just how we prayed for them. Other times they get answered very differently... or we are left to keep praying day after day after day. But why doesn’t God just answer all of our prayers right away? Because God wants our prayers to change the world, but even more: to change us. He gives us the answers we need today to keep us close and dependent upon Him. This helps grow our trust in Him, and shapes our wills and character to His. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we are being taught time and again that our Father will always be faithful – that He will sustain us with what we need, when we need it. As Alec Motyer wrote of Exodus 16:

“The redeeming Lord himself became the caring, providing companion of those who had sheltered under the blood of the lamb. At the center of it all lay the revelation of a God who in all His glory was with His people in their wilderness walk, patient with their failings, in full control of all the forces, capacities and inhabitants of the created world, exasperated by disobedience, yet patient and beneficent in the face of plain distrust and capable of meeting every need that His pilgrims experienced.”

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

How not to approach daily bread prayers: A spirit of grumbling and complaining

- The Bible is filled with stories of people expressing honest, hard, and authentic frustrations with God. What is the difference between these prayers/ interactions and those that grumble and complain?
 - What qualities or desires lie underneath a “spirit of grumbling”?
- As followers of Christ, what can we learn from the story of the Israelites in [Exodus 16](#)?
 - Put yourself in the Israelites’ shoes: How would you react to God’s provision of manna? Do you think your reaction would change over time? Why or why not?

How to approach daily bread prayers: Seeking & Gathering Daily

- What is something you do (or could do) as a way to “gather daily bread” as part of a morning routine?
 - What are additional ways you and your CG might receive the “daily bread” the Lord wants to fill you with? (See “Engage & Experience” guide below for additional ideas.)
- The story of the Israelites and manna from Heaven is also a story about the Sabbath. Talk through how.
 - How did the bread function differently during the Sabbath?
- Sabbath – slowing down and resting in the Lord – allows for spiritual centering. But today, just as then, practicing the Sabbath is a challenging routine to establish. What are some ways you practice the Sabbath?
 - What are ways your group might practice Sabbath together

Prayer

Pray for the situation in Ukraine, for peace, Christ’s mercies and intervention. Pray for our Pastoral search process. Pray for new and non-believers to attend the Christianity Explored Classes. For this week’s Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

Incorporate “Prayer Walking” into your prayers for God’s Kingdom. Go alone or in pairs. Start with prayers of praise, remembering that Jesus is the sovereign Lord. Be aware of His presence and try to see the city through His eyes. Confess fears, weaknesses, lack of concern. Ask God to give you insight into His ways and to appreciate the beauty and glory of the city. Ask for opportunities to love and serve the people of the community. Pray as you walk, eyes open, stopping at landmarks. Pray for:

- Social, political, economic needs
- Critical crossroads and intersections
- Cultural influencers, schools, businesses, churches etc.
- People, neighbors, residents, workers, passerby, major people groups
- Peace and safety: protection against crime, conflict, unrest
- Open doors and hearts to the gospel and workers to share

Talk with God and each other about what you saw and heard. What surprised you? What encouraged you? What made you uncomfortable? For a handy bookmark on Prayer Walking from prayercurrent.com click [HERE](#).