



“Trust”
Matthew 6
Small Group Plan

The Lord’s Prayer has been outlined and analyzed by many through the years. Here is one more by Harold L. Willmington:

FAITH – “Our Father in heaven.”

WORSHIP – “Hallowed by your name.”

EXPECTATION – “Your kingdom come.”

SUBMISSION – “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

PETITION – “Give us today our daily bread.”

CONFESSION – “Forgive us our debts.”

COMPASSION – “As we also have forgiven our debtors.”

DEPENDENCE – “And lead us not into temptation.”

— *The Outline Bible*, (462-463)

Notice the break in the flow of Jesus’ prayer — from vertical to horizontal. To use another well-known lesson from Jesus, “Love the Lord your God ... love your neighbor.” As I like to put it, “Passion for God ... Compassion for People.”

After acknowledging God as Father, Ruler, King and Lord, Jesus says, now you are ready to bring your needs to him:

“Give us today our daily bread.”

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What is your favorite kind of bread?
- What is your favorite kind of sandwich?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ This, then, is how you should pray: “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 today our daily bread.** ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”

- What was the role of “bread” in the ancient world?
- How is it different today?

— GOD PROVIDES FOR ALL —

Psalm 104:24-28

²⁴ How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number — living things both large and small. ²⁶ There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. ²⁷ All the creatures look expectantly to you to give them their meals on time. ²⁸ You come, and they gather around; you open your hand and they eat from it. (The Message)

Nehemiah 9:15

¹⁵ In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them.

- In Psalm 104, how do the “creatures” receive their provision from God?
- In Nehemiah 9, how differently does Israel nation receive its provision from God?
- Today, how should it be even more special for those who know God through Jesus?

— GOD NOTICES NO MATTER HOW SMALL —

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. (NLT)

Psalm 23:1-5

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

- List some of the largest gifts you have received from God.
- List some of the smallest, almost un-noticed daily gifts you receive from God.
- Do children usually notice and thank God for the large gifts, the small gifts, or for both? Explain.
- How would it change your daily outlook if you routinely rehearsed God's gifts both large and small?

— GOD DELIVERS WHAT WE NEED —

Matthew 6:30-32

³⁰ *“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers — most of which are never even seen — don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? ³¹ What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. ³² People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works.”*
(The Message)

- What is the difference between our needs and our luxuries?
- How can living with an attitude of faith, in a position of believing that God will give us what we need, relieve our stress and anxiety?
- How can living with an independent, it all depends upon me attitude create even more stress and anxiety?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What is the difference between relaxing in God’s care and being lazy?
- How can being calm and relaxed in God’s presence actually create more energy for focused, productive service?
- Name Your Bread — Give some thought to what you need most and name it. Offer the opportunity for everyone in the group to share the “bread” that most need to request from God.
- Close by praising God as Father, Ruler, King and Lord, and then bring those requests to Him in prayer.