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Participants' Handout

2026 Annual Theme: Hope in Motion

BIBLE STUDY
November 11, 2026

November 2026 Theme: "Appreciating The Little Things "

Lesson Subject: "**The Lord's Prayer**" The Provisions,
The Pardoning and
the Power of God in Prayer
Matthew 6:5-13
(focus verse 11)

Topics

- Scripture Reference
- Reflection Questions
- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and context
- Explore the Text
- Checking for understanding
- Life Application

Scripture Reference:

The Lord's Prayer

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray
standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of
men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.
6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray
to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee
openly.
7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they
shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.
9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.
11 **Give us this day our daily bread.**
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

Question 1:

When we pray should we request of God what we want or what we need? Can we request both explain your answer?

Question 2:

How can we sincerely pray for our enemies daily? What does it say about the character or the spiritual maturity of a person that does this?

Question 3:

Define the term power? How should power be used effectively among believers?

Outline

The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13
The Prayer can be divided into seven parts

Alms (6:1-4)
Prayer (6:5-15)
Fasting (6:16-18)
Treasures (6:19-21)
The Healthy Eye (6:23)
Serving God (6:24)
Do not Worry (6:25-34)

Introduction

"When we learn how to ask for daily bread, we learn how to live day by day. I am one of those people who struggles with enjoying and thanking God for today. I always have the unrealistic expectations that if I overwork myself today, then there will be a magical day when I will have no more work to do and I can just relax… I have anxious compulsion to be productive. And inevitably I miss out. I miss out on selfcare. I miss out on enjoying the beauty all around me. I miss out on enjoying a moment of quiet prayer and rest in God. I miss out sometimes on frivolous playtime with my kids. I miss out on necessary sleep…If we learn to live daily, we will find daily rewards- in peace, prayer, and presence with family and friends." **Nijay K. Gupta Smyth Helwys Commentary**

Our lesson for the next couple of weeks will focus on three specific areas and that is the provisions of God, the pardoning of God and the power of God in prayer. The Lord's prayer has many intangibles that saturate its sacred words but among those words are divine principles that rid us of useless worry. Worry speaks to our lack of trust in the reliability of God. (**Matthew 6:25-34**) These three concepts daily, debts, and power; provide for us a reminder that life is short (**James 4:14**) and it should not be lived, keeping score of others offenses against us (**Matthew 5:44-45, Romans 12:14, 19-21, Colossians 3:13**) and this particular scripture concludes with the supernatural power that sustains the entire content of the prayer and the person that is praying (**Isaiah 40:28**).

Background and Context

Through the Gospel according to Matthew these words of Jesus in the Lord's prayer are cited to encourage His true disciples to prioritize prayer. Jesus is not instructing them as a detached participant in their practice of prayer. Rather Jesus even in **Matthew 6:9-13** still embodies the essence of Immanuel from its initial mentioning in **Matthew 1:23**. He is the God that is with us in our prayers. The connection with God through prayer is impossible without the mediation through Jesus Christ. **(John 14:6, Hebrews 10:19-25)**

How is it that Matthew's Lord's Prayer became the dominant version of this prayer used in liturgical and ecclesial instruction throughout the years and (even) today? Matthew was widely popular in the early church probably due to its emphasis on the direct teachings of Jesus for the church.

Most Christians know that prayer is much more than bringing a grocery list of requests before God--God do this, God do that. We cannot treat prayer simply as using God as our genie in a bottle to get certain things done.

Our daily private prayers should reflect our unquenchable desire for our relationship with God. Our insatiable desire should be to build the inner man and woman, while starving our fleshly desires for those things outside of the will of God. Jesus was focused! Jesus' focus was to give glory to God (**John 9:4**). To achieve such an admirable task Jesus knew there must be a focus on nurturing and nourishing a daily selfless and self-denying communication with God.

The importance of daily Prayer

Karl Barth himself found inspiration from John Calvin, who argued that we pray through the mouth of Jesus. Jesus speaks for us and we are privileged to have our voice heard through the Son of God he has suffered in obedience and faithfulness to his Father.

Jesus is not just inviting us to pray the Lord's Prayer after him but also to pray it with him.

"When we pray, we are given the privilege of pouring our small buckets of prayers into the vast river, knowing the current runs directly to God."

Rowan Williams also notes that Christian prayer trusts that God is close and cares for us deeply. He writes, "very near the heart of Christian prayer is getting over the idea that God is somewhere a very long way off, so that we have to shout very loudly to be heard.

Explore the Text

Let's take a moment and review the biblical principles that are connected to the fulfillment of being a beneficiary of God's daily bread!

- **The Source of the Provision**
- **The Recipient of the Provision**
- **The Sustenance of the Provision**

The Source of the Provision

In Matthew 6:11 Jesus expressed in this section to ask Abba (your Father) "Give us." Our attention should not be misplaced on the supplies given but on the source that is graciously giving us the resources.

We should never lose sight that whatever blessings that we have received, God is the **Eternal Investor** in our progress and purpose. **Philippians 4:19**, **James 1:17**

The Father's--

Divine Permission- God wills our daily provision **Acts 17:25**
Divine Pleasure- God takes Pleasure in our blessings **Psalm 37:4**
Divine Purpose- God desires to draw others to him through these **Genesis 12:2-3**

Rowan Williams Put yourself in the place of Jesus. Refer to this as vicarious Christology. The notion that Jesus Christ creates a place for us to meet God.

The Recipient of Provisions

The continuation of the prayer now focuses on the 'us.' This statement can make you ponder who is the 'us' that Jesus is referring to?

Is this anyone who desires to pray to God for the blessings of daily bread? **Matthew 7:5-11** Does Jesus specifically mean those who are a part of the kingdom of God already? **Mark 7:24-30**

NT Wright says the Lord's Prayer petition for daily bread echoes the manna provision. Just as Israel depended on God for the sustaining of their lives in the wilderness, so too Jesus expected his disciples to acknowledge that same reliance.

Jesus journey with his disciples was not meant as a clout chasing fellowship. This was a discipleship program whose curriculum was packed with enormous sacrifice. Later in the Gospel of Matthew Jesus expressed the seriousness and the sacrifice of discipleship in **Matthew 8:20**

Gerhard Lohfink helps us to contextualize this bread petition in the ministry of Jesus by observing that Jesus and his disciples were itinerant that is they did not remain in one place but traveled from place to place. Thus, they often did not know where, when or how they would have their next meal. This gives urgency to the prayer for daily sustenance: They cannot undertake to plan or set aside for the future. They have no time for it. But they may and should pray for bread for one day.

Again, the phrase daily food carries that sense of the daily ration. What the poorest poor can expect, depends on the generosity of others and living one day(or meal) at a time.

Augustine states daily we live, and daily rise, and are daily fed, and daily hunger. May he then give us daily bread.

The Disciples will survive not only because they have the sustenance of bread, but they have with them the spiritual bread! **John 6:51**

Cyprian, we are meant to think of both simple bread and spiritual bread because both are gifts of God.

The Sustenance of the Provision
William and Hauerwas remind us here that the mechanization of food production and the storage technology we are privileged to have can give us a superficial sense of security telling us that we are fed by grocery stores and not by God.

The text says, "Give us this day our daily bread" This term bread can mean our daily needs. Our minds must be renewed so that we can know according to the desires of God what is classified as a true need. We must consistently peel back the layers of all the marketing genius that tells us in the world what we need in order to find true fulfillment in life. We

must turn within to connect with the Spirit of God and verify through his word what our needs are to fulfill our purpose on this planet. **Luke 12:22-24**

The point here would be that **epiousios** might acknowledge that God is the suppler of our needs, thus it might be glossed as Give us today, Father our bread which comes upon us from you.

Craig Bloomberg, the prayer makes request for our needs and not our greed **James 4:3.**

In Mathew 6:11 and Luke 11:3 is ***epiousios***; it is an unusual word, extraordinarily rare in fact, almost without precedent in the Greek world before these occurrences. When we think about the Lord's Prayer in these terms, we are reminded that we lean and depend on God.

This petition especially requires ears and eyes attuned to the many canonical resonances with the language and imagery of the divine gifts of bread.

Karl Barth points to Luther who said "we must all be destitute for we are faced by a great void and have everything to receive and learn from God.

Check for Understanding

1. Why is it important that we don't lose sight of who is providing our daily bread?

2. Who can pray to God for daily Bread?

3. What does Craig Bloomberg suggest about prayer under the sustenance of the provisions?

Life Application: Today will you make the effort to be more conscience of the daily blessings of God. This should change your attitude and your outlook on life. God didn't have to supply your needs and even some of your wants. Because God has been so good to us we need to kneel on our needs frequently to tell God thank you. Early in the morning and drawing toward evening we should plan to have an appreciation party for God!