

Small Group Guide: THE LORD'S PRAYER: WORDS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW - Everyday Dependence

Opening Question: What is the strangest or most unrecognizable meal you've ever been served where you quietly thought, "What is it???"

Opening Prayer: *Father, thank you for bringing us together. As we talk about this section the Lord's Prayer: "Give us today our daily bread," help us see you as the true source of everything we need—physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Open our hearts to trust you more and to be generous with what you've given us. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation and make it practical and personal. In Jesus' name, amen.*

KEY SERMON POINTS

Main Ideas

The Lord's Prayer is not just a prayer to recite; it's a way of life to be lived every day.

"Give us today our daily bread" is far bigger than food on a plate. In Scripture, bread represents:

- Physical provision – the necessities of life.
 - God's Word – our emotional and spiritual nourishment.
 - The Church – our relationships and fellowship with other believers.
 - Salvation in Christ – the spiritual life and blessings we have in Him.
1. God is the source of **all** our needs, not our job, savings, education, or retirement accounts.
 2. Scarcity thinking ("there will never be enough") questions the faithfulness of God. We're called to wise stewardship, but our dependence must be on God, not on our resources.
 3. What God supplies to us is meant to flow through us. "Give **us** today our daily bread" reminds us that the Christian life is not about "me" but "*us*." We're called to be straws, not cups—channels, not containers.
 4. God delights to give good things to His children. As Jesus asks, if imperfect parents give good gifts to their kids, how much more will our perfect Heavenly Father supply what we truly need (Matthew 7:11)?
 5. Living palms up (surrendered) and dependent is how we become "living proof" to the world that God is faithful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Matthew 6:11.**
 - Based on Pastor Dan's sermon, in what ways does "daily bread" go beyond physical food?
 - Which of the four areas (physical, emotional, relational, spiritual) do you most naturally think of when you hear "daily bread," and which do you tend to overlook?
2. **Read Deuteronomy 8:3** (quoted by Jesus in Matthew 4:4).
 - How has God used "hunger"—a need or lack—in your life to teach you dependence on His Word and His presence, not just on material things?
 - Where are you currently tempted to "live on bread alone" (resources, achievements, comfort) instead of "every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord"?
3. **Read Philippians 4:19.**
 - How does this verse challenge our scarcity mindset and our anxiety about finances, security, or the future?
 - What is one specific "need" (physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual) you're struggling to trust God with right now?

4. **Read Matthew 7:9–11.**

- Jesus compares God’s heart to that of a good parent. How does this picture of God confront any fears you may have that He will withhold good from you or give you something “less than”?
- How would your prayers change if you really believed God wants to give what is truly good and needed in your life?

5. Pastor Dan said God is our **source**, and everything else (job, 401k, education) are just **channels** He uses.

- What “channel” are you most tempted to treat as your ultimate source?
- How can you practically shift your mindset this week to look past the channel to the Giver?

6. “Give **us** today our daily bread” is a community prayer, not an individual one.

- How does this change the way you think about your resources—time, money, abilities, and spiritual gifts?
- Where might God be asking you to move from being a “cup” (collecting for yourself) to being a “straw” (a conduit for others)?

7. Scarcity thinking says, “There won’t be enough, so I need to hold on,” but faith says, “God will supply all I need.”

- Where do you see scarcity thinking show up in your life (money, time, emotional energy, relationships, service)?
- What is one concrete step of generosity or trust you could take this week that pushes back against scarcity and declares, “God is my source”?

8. The sermon emphasized “palms up” living—surrender and dependence.

- If you pictured your life with hands either clenched tight or open palms up, what would be in your closed fists right now?
- What would it look like for you to “open your hands” in that area this week?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (Choose 1 or 2 that apply to you.)

1. **Pray the Lord’s Prayer Slowly This Week.** Once a day, pray the Lord’s Prayer, pausing at “Give us today our daily bread” to name specific needs in each area: physical, emotional, relational, spiritual. Ask God to be your source in all of them.
2. **Name Your Channels, Reaffirm Your Source.** Make a short list of the main “channels” God uses to provide for you (job, family support, savings, etc.). Next to each, write: “God is my source; this is a channel.” Pray over the list, thanking God as the Giver behind every gift.
3. **Do One Act of “Bread-Sharing” Generosity.** Ask God to show you one practical way to share your “daily bread” with someone else this week—buy groceries for someone, take a meal, give an encouraging call, share Scripture, or meet a specific need in your church or community.
4. **Fast from Scarcity Inputs for a Day.** For one day, intentionally avoid checking anything that tends to feed anxiety about “not enough” (e.g., investment apps, obsessive news about the economy, social media comparison). Use those moments instead to read a psalm about God’s provision (e.g., Psalm 23; Psalm 104) and to thank Him for His faithfulness.
5. **Practice Palms-Up Prayer.** Once or twice this week, spend 5–10 minutes praying with your hands physically open, palms up. Tell God specifically what you are surrendering (finances, future, health, relationships) and declare aloud, “You are my source. I trust you with my daily bread.”

MEMORY VERSE for the Week:

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:19, NIV)

Closing Prayer: *Lord, thank you for reminding us that you are the source of everything we need—body, mind, heart, and soul. Forgive us for the times we've clung to our resources or let fear and scarcity drive us. This week, help us live with open hands—dependent on you and generous toward others. Use our lives as "straws," not cups, so that what you pour in can flow out to bless those around us. Keep shaping us to look more like Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*