

## DAILY BREAD

### Small Group Questions

In preparation for this week's study, read Matthew 6.

- ❖ Give an example of a person (yourself or someone else) who expressed the feeling that they did not have enough, but in reality, they had so much. *How do you think God feels when his children stand at a full closet or refrigerator and complain that they need more?*
- ❖ Describe a moment when you experienced a perspective shift, realizing how much you have (of material value) compared to many people in the world who have very little. How did it impact you? For how long?

### DIG INTO THE WORD

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:6–10 and Philippians 4:10-13. What does Paul say about contentment? Do you agree with what he says about money? Has the love of money been destructive in your life? If so, share an example from your own experience. How is contentment presented in a positive light in these passages?
2. Compare Matthew 6:19–24 with the promises in Psalm 23. As you look at your own life, where are you making your investments? Whom are you serving – your Shepherd or yourself (i.e., via your stuff)?
3. Read Matthew 6:25–34 and Philippians 4:6. In the Matthew passage Jesus reminds us that God provides us with daily bread (food, clothing, etc.), so we ought not to be anxious about these things. In light of this passage, why does Jesus teach us to pray for daily bread? When you pray for daily bread, does that help to reduce your worry over earthly possessions?
4. How has God provided daily bread for you? *Think of daily bread representing the basics of life, what you really need (not all of your wants). Where you live, transportation, toys and fun stuff, tools that help you do your work, furniture, appliances, other things...*
5. What did you find most challenging, interesting, or significant in the sermon?
6. Jesus did not teach us to pray, "Give me today my daily bread." He said to pray for *our* daily bread. He wants us to be concerned not only about what *I* need, but what *we* need. All through the Bible we see that God's heart beats for those in need (1 John 3:16-18; Matthew 25:31-36; Luke 12:32-34). What one specific way could you take another step forward in sharing your daily bread with people in need?

### PRAY FROM THE HEART

*"Why is prayer so startlingly effective when we admit our helplessness? First, because God insists upon our facing up to the true facts of our human situation. Thus we lay under our prayer-structure the firm foundation of truth rather than self-delusion or wishful thinking. This recognition and acknowledgement of our helplessness is also the quickest way to the right attitude which God recognizes as essential to prayer. It deals a mortal blow to the most serious sin of all – man's independence that ignores God." – Catherine Marshall*

Realizing your helpless condition, don't forget how much God loves you and longs to hear your prayers. In question four, you listed some of the things God has provided for you. Take time as a group to offer prayers of thanks for God's loving supply of daily bread and so much more. At the conclusion, join together in the Lord's Prayer.

### A PROMISE TO REMEMBER

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

Week 1	March 10
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>March 17</b>
Week 3	March 24
Week 4	March 31
Week 5	April 7