

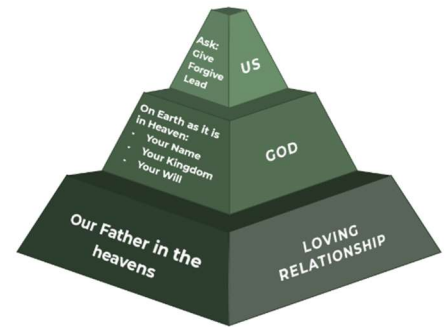
Ask: Give Us Today Our Daily Bread  
OK Prayer: Session 5

QUESTION: When is the last time you were really hungry?

ASK: GIVE

Bread in the Ancient World:

- Roman citizens in the capital received grain by decree of the Senate from the emperor and goddesses, Annona & Ceres
- Israelites received manna in the wilderness from the LORD [Yahweh] as a test of their trusting obedience: Exodus 16:4, 15
- Jews used bread to test Jesus: John 6:26-58



Petitionary (Asking) Prayer:

1. Reorients us to \_\_\_\_\_ by showing the extent of our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Makes a real \_\_\_\_\_ in the world. (Jas 5:17-18 & 1 Ki 18:1, 41-42)
3. Is human \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
4. Must be \_\_\_\_\_.

“Nothing is beneath His notice, nothing is beneath His dignity, nothing is beneath His interest.”<sup>1</sup> John Stott

5. Is chiefly directed against the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus Meets the Need of a Father and His Son: Mark 9:14-29

- Setting: after the Transfiguration with Moses & Elijah (Mt 17:1-3, Mk 9:2-13; Mk 6:13)
- The “faithless generation” (Mk 9:19; Dt 1:27-36 & Num 13:25-14:10)

6. Requires faith in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ God into the situation in an active way.

“There is within each believer a tension between faith and unfaith, and that faith can only continue to exist by dint of divine aid.” “Faith is not a secure possession attained once for all, but is ever threatened by the reassertion of unbelief from which the believer needs rescue.”<sup>2</sup> Christopher Marshall

“The dethroning of Satan is always a reversal of death and an affirmation of life.”<sup>3</sup> William Lane

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<sup>1</sup> John Stott, “Growing in the Prayer Life” sermon, 8/20/1989, John Stott Sermon Archive. Available online at: [https://www.allsouls.org/Groups/139680/E038\\_Growing\\_as\\_a\\_Christian.aspx](https://www.allsouls.org/Groups/139680/E038_Growing_as_a_Christian.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> Christopher D. Marshall, *Faith as a Theme in Mark's Narrative* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), 121.

<sup>3</sup> William L. Lane, *The Gospel of Mark* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974), 334.

What to do when your faith has been misplaced:

1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ yourself up.
2. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ up.
3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ up restrictions for prayer.
4. Don't make up restrictions for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ for more faith.
6. Don't discount the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.
7. Remember \_\_\_\_\_ (and whose) you are.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT / GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Do you regularly incorporate asking God for daily necessities such as food, protection, and health when things are going well? If not, why not?
2. Pastor E. M. Bounds says, "We must trust God today, and leave the morrow entirely with Him. . . . Prayer is the task and duty of each recurring day—daily prayer for daily needs. As every day demands its bread, so every day demands its prayer."<sup>4</sup> How does a reliance on yesterday's faith and prayers short-circuit our ability to trust God for today and tomorrow?
3. Karyn said that prayer doesn't just change us by strengthening our relationship with God, but "brings about events that would not otherwise happen." How does this challenge you to pray for things that seem beyond your control? (Such as weather, politics, or the soul of someone who is ardently resistant to God?)
4. Jesus told the desperate father, "All things are possible to him who believes!" (Mark 9:23) Have you ever heard this verse used out of context to inspire an attitude of having faith in faith itself? How does the context of this story change your understanding of this verse? How can you apply it to a specific situation you are facing right now?
5. How is "believing unbelief" (such as this father had) different from ambivalence, duplicity, or weak faith?
6. Consider the quotes by Christopher Marshall. How does it challenge you to continually ask God to grow and mature your faith and not become confident in past successes?

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<sup>4</sup> E. M. Bounds, *The Necessity of Prayer* (1st pub. 1929), public domain: <https://ccel.org/ccel/bounds/necessity.html>.