

Study Series: When We Say Father

Author: Adrian Rogers

 Lesson Title: “Our Daily Bread” (pp. 106-115)

Session 09

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The main point of this lesson is: God meets the needs of those who seek and serve Him.

Focus on this goal: To help adults make their needs known to God and trust Him to provide for those needs.

Key Bible Passage: Matthew 6:11

Before the Session

1. Create a three-column chart on a poster or white board.
2. Label the columns Material Needs, Physical Needs, and Spiritual Needs. (Steps 1 and 5)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Draw attention to the chart and ask:

1. *If we were to fill out this chart to reflect our needs, which column do you think might be longest?*
2. *Which specific list of needs might cause us to feel the most anxious, and why?*

Declare: When we say Father, we can make our needs known to God and trust Him to provide for those needs.

Step 2. Day 1 – The Provision of the Prayer

**Read** Matthew 6:11.

**Ask:** *Why might asking God to give us our daily bread not relieve much anxiety if we take this prayer literally?*

**Explain** in the first century most common laborers were paid daily with just enough to purchase food for that day or the next.

**Ask:**

1. *Are we to presume this prayer only pertains to the first century since we don’t live in a day-by-day economy?*
2. *What are we really asking when we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread”?*

**Explain** since bread was basic sustenance for most ancient people, it became a metaphor for all needs.

**Request** adults state from Day One (pp. 107-108) reasons God doesn’t answer some prayers for daily bread.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 2 (p. 107).

**Invite** a volunteer to read the last Day One paragraph (p. 108).

Step 3. Day 2 – Express a Practical Petition, Part 1

**Request** participants identify from James 4:1-4 another reason people don’t receive from God all they need. [They don’t ask.]

**Discuss** Day Two, activity 1 (p. 109).

**State** some might be confused by Jesus’ promise because they have persistently prayed with the proper priorities, but don’t feel they have received an answer.

**Analyze** how believers are to view Jesus’ command and promises in this passage in light of the reality that sometimes God’s people do suffer harm and lack basic needs.

**Brainstorm** examples in Scripture when God said “no” to prayers of godly people (Jesus in garden of Gethsemane, Matt. 26; Mary and Martha, John 11; Paul and his thorn, 2 Cor. 12).

**Explain** God said “no” because He had something greater in store. These godly people weren’t ashamed to ask for what they desired, yet submitted to God’s will because they had determined that was their highest priority.

**Request** two volunteers read John 16:24 and 1 Peter 1:6-8.

**Ask:** *How can we experience joy whether or not God answers our prayers the way we would like for Him to?*

Step 4. Day 3 – Express a Practical Petition, Part 2

**Lead** participants to evaluate the limitation to the prayer promises examined so far in this session.

**Draw attention** to the margin/pull quote in Day Three (p. 110).

**Invite** responses to Day Three, activity 1 (p. 111).

**Read** Romans 8:32.

**Relate** the author’s discussion of Paul’s logic in that verse (pp. 111-112).

**Guide** the group to discuss Day Three, activity 2 (p. 112).

**Invite** a volunteer to read Romans 8:26-27.

**Examine** how these verses further encourage participants to ask God to supply all their daily needs.

Step 5. Day 4 – Exercise a Personal Plan

**Consider** how some people might use prayer as a cop-out or excuse to do nothing.

**Declare** the apostle Paul, who told believers to pray about everything in Philippians 4:6, also wrote 2 Thessalonians 3:7-13.

**Invite** a volunteer to read aloud those verses.

**Determine** specific material, physical, or spiritual needs believers might ask God to provide.

**Record** responses on the chart you created earlier.

**Brainstorm** specific ways people might be part of God’s answer to their own prayers.

**Encourage** participants to privately consider Day Four, activity 1 (p. 112).

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 113).

**Assert:** We may be the way God answers someone’s prayer of, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

Step 6. Day 5 – Enjoy a Present Provision

**Read** the first paragraph of Day Five (p. 114).

**Evaluate** why many find it difficult to be content with having daily needs provided.

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 1 (p. 114).

**Read** Philippians 4:10-13 to add to the discussion on learning how to be content.

**Draw attention** to the margin/pull quote in Day Five (p. 115).

**Ask:**

1. How can daily giving thanks to God help us grow in contentment?
2. What are you thankful for today?

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 2 (p. 115).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Read** the Focus on this goal statement for this session (p. 116).

**Invite** volunteers to share what is most difficult for them in that statement.

**Declare:** We can even ask God to meet our daily need for faith so that we can trust Him to provide for our needs!

**Invite** volunteers to read Mark 9:24 and Luke 17:5.

**Encourage** adults this week to pray about the needs they listed in Day One, activity 1 (p. 106), including the prayers of Mark 9:24 and Luke 17:5.

**Close in prayer.**

After the Session

