



# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Week 3

## BREAKING THE ICE

How has your prayer life shifted over the last couple weeks, as you practice the Lord's Prayer?

When you read "give us this day our daily bread" in the past, what came to mind?

## MAIN CONTENT

Start again this week by reading the Lord's Prayer aloud together (Matthew 6:9-13).

As Josh taught about the Lord's prayer this weekend, he reminded us of the importance of the "our" in this prayer. He said that it implies togetherness, generosity and hospitality - that we would be gathering with others to partake in what the Lord has provided for us. It's a regular reminder that whatever God has given us is not just for us, but also for others.

1. How often do you gather with others, outside of your family, for a meal? If it's not often, why not? What changes can you make in your life, to make space for inviting others into your life?

2. Have you been the recipient of someone else's generosity or hospitality recently? How did it make you feel?

Josh spoke about the Israelites in the desert, and how this was supposed to be a much shorter trip than 40 years. They've just left slavery in Egypt, passed through the Red Sea, and then they begin to complain about God's plan and want to turn back.

However, despite their complaints God still provides for his people in the form of manna - daily bread from heaven. They can't store it up, they can't provide for themselves, they must trust God every single day to supply their sustenance.

3. What do you think God is trying to teach his people by providing in this way?

4. Do you think there are any areas in your life where God is doing something similar? Maybe He hasn't answered a prayer yet, or maybe He is providing an answer, but it's just enough to get by. What are you learning from this?

Again, when we see Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days, we're supposed to be reminded of the Israelites 40 year journey in the desert. However, in the midst of his trial, Jesus gives us the perfect example of how to trust God for provision. When the devil tempts him to turn stones into bread he replies with a quote from the Israelites time in the wilderness, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

5. What do you think Jesus means that we should live "by every word that comes from the mouth of God?"

6. Where in your life right now are you tempted to take control and provide for yourself, rather than trusting God as your provider?

Josh pointed out this profound pattern that occurs when Jesus is handling bread: Take / Bless / Break / Give. Jesus does this in our own lives, as well. He takes whatever we come to Him with, He blesses it on our behalf, then He breaks us and remakes us into His image. Finally, He multiplies what we have and gives it to a world in need, all for His glory.

7. Have you seen Jesus working this pattern anywhere in your life?

8. How do you think He longs to use you to provide for the needs of others?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Father, help us to trust that You are our true provider, knowing that You will be more than enough. Jesus, will you give us the same faith you have in God's goodness and His ability to provide abundantly in every area of our life, even if our circumstances don't feel abundant. Holy Spirit, teach us how to live with abundant and generous hearts, ready to give to others what you have given to us Lord. Amen.

## **ACTION STEP**

- Continue praying the Lord's Prayer every day, at least once a day, and write down how your prayer life is changing.
- What is one thing in your life where you need provision? Make a commitment to pray every day specifically for that, asking God to provide.
- Pick a day on the calendar this month to invite folks outside of your family over to share a meal with you.