

May your will be done

This week's prayer focus:

**GIVE US OUR
DAILY BREAD**



As a church family, in prayer, we are intentionally seeking God's will together, using the Lord's Prayer as a guide. We continue this week with the fifth line.

Below is a guide suggesting how you could use this to focus your prayers over the next week.

'GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD'

In showing his disciples how to pray, Jesus has modelled to us that our first concern and delight is to be God's glory, his reign, and his will. It is only then that we turn to our needs—both physical and spiritual.

In Jesus' time, the daily pay for a worker only purchased that day's food, so there was little opportunity to save up money. The whole community was only ever one bad crop away from a serious food shortage. That precariousness all seems very foreign to us. Supermarket shelves offer plentiful food supplies, and thanks to bank accounts and credit cards, we generally have the money to buy what we need. There's the appearance of security in that most of us don't wonder where our next meal is coming from. But now, as then, Jesus wants his followers to learn to trust our heavenly Father to meet our physical needs; to cultivate a daily dependence on him.

Acknowledge to God that all we have comes from him, our loving and sovereign heavenly Father. Thank him for every good thing that he gives you, for sustaining you, giving you every breath, and providing the rain that falls, the crops that grow, and the very infrastructure that enables you to buy food at the shops.

Pray that God will help you to develop a deeper trust in him, not in the false security of your credit card or bank balance.

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Our God provides

Read Psalm 104:14-15, 27-28 and James 1:17

He is the ultimate source of everything that is good, whether food, clothing, work, leisure, health, friendship, etc. And he doesn't owe these things to us—they are his gracious gift.

Give thanks to God for all the ways in which he provides for us—our basic needs, and so much more besides.

Ask God to forgive you for the times when you have taken these for granted. Pray that he will help you to develop a thankful heart, for all that he provides, and a desire to help others to be thankful to him too.

Pray that God will provide for those, both locally and internationally, who don't have food or shelter, and that he will point them to himself.

Don't worry, but seek first God's Kingdom

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Part of recognising God as our heavenly Father is being prepared to trust him for food and drink and clothes. He knows that we need these things, so rather than chasing after them (like the pagans in verse 32), or worrying about them, he wants us to put him first.

Give thanks to God for his Fatherly care.

Pray that he will help you to grow in the discipline of taking your concerns to him.

Pray that he will strengthen you to live out your faith in Christ (living righteously) and to keep the things of the Kingdom as your top priority.

Contentment

Read Proverbs 30:8-9 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10

This is a prayer of someone who is prepared to live simply: requesting 'our daily bread', not 'our daily gourmet feast!' Are we satisfied with the basics, or do we have a growing sense of entitlement, where luxuries become 'needs' which we think we have a right to?

Pray that God will help you to grow in contentment in him, not having a restless need to acquire, or to keep raising your standard of living, but to keep growing in your daily dependence on him for daily needs.

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