

“COURAGEOUS FAITH: PRAYING THE LORD’S PRAYER”
“Give us this Day Our Daily Bread”

We are in a new sermon series *“Courageous Faith: Praying the Lord’s Prayer.”* The prayer Jesus taught is one of the ways we grow as disciples, leaning into God’s grace and trusting God’s love for us. Each week there will be a slightly different version for this study guide to help us pray this prayer more deeply. This week we concentrate on the phrase *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* The prayer shifts from who God is and our relationship with God to human needs. The first real request starts with *“give us this day our daily bread.”* Prior to that statement, the prayer notes the intimate relationship with God, honors God’s name and position in the universe and how human beings fit in that universe. The next section of the prayer Jesus taught us focuses on life on earth. It begins with the most basic human need, daily bread. May the Lord’s Prayer this week give us *Courageous Faith* to trust that God will guide and direct us and our world. ---Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Give us this Day Our Daily Bread”**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen. From the Ritual of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) UMH 896

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, January 28, 2019 Luke 12: 22-31

Jesus was speaking to the crowd, but more specifically to his disciples. Questions were coming to him about the division of property among family members, about staying true to one's self and not being afraid. In the midst he gives this advice, *"don't worry."* I think most people would agree this is easier said than done. Jesus said to not worry about food or clothing, God will take care of the basics. Instead, seek God's kingdom and what you need will be provided. The best verse, *"And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to you span of life?"* If not, then why do it? In the Lord's Prayer, *"give us this day"*, it is about the same kind of trust lifted up in these verses. God truly knows our needs and we can trust Him to provide them. *When you pray the Lord's Prayer, how does it feel to ask God to provide your daily needs and to trust Him to do so?*

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 Psalm 23: 1-3

This beloved Psalm is often read at funerals. The psalm itself is not really about death and dying at all. The psalm is a song or poem about trust. The psalmist describes God as shepherd. Good shepherds care for their flocks, protect them from enemies, protect them the dumb things they do and feed them and keep them safe as they sleep. *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."* *"Give us this day, our daily bread."* Not wanting, means trusting the shepherd, Abba, to take care of a person's basic needs. Still waters, green pastures and restoration are the images used by the psalmist. Thinking of yesterday's words *"don't worry"*, both the psalmist and Jesus offer peace and comfort and an invitation to trust that God cares for even the smallest needs and will provide them. *What needs worry you the most? What things are you unwilling or unable to share with God? Take time to write down some things you believe you need, lift those needs to God in prayer.*

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 Psalm 23: 4-5

Verse four has been translated *"even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,"* or *"even though I walk through the darkest valley,"* this is not necessarily about death. It could be about coming close to death, or walking with a loved one through his or her death or any kind of personal tragedy or concern. Whatever that valley might be, again, the presence of Abba, the Shepherd is one of comfort, strength and of faith. There is no fear for the psalmist, only peace and trust. The Lord's Prayer is about trust, really trusting that God is an intimate loving father/parent and will look to our deepest needs. Even in the midst of one's "enemies", God is providing one's daily needs. *What do you think of when you hear "valley of the shadow of death" or "the darkest valley?" Where have those valleys taken you? Did you experience God's comfort and care in the midst of your distress?*

Thursday, January 31, 2019 Psalm 23: 6

Goodness and mercy can be translated as kindness and steadfast love; follow can be translated as pursue. Follow and pursue are two very different verbs, the later offers a sense of real intent. The idea that God pursues His children with kindness, steadfast love, goodness and mercy provides a powerful image. God is not falling behind "sort of" interested, God is intently involved in the needs of those who believe. God is actively pursuing all with kindness, love, grace and mercy. *Have you ever thought about God pursuing you with his love and mercy? In what ways have you experienced that?*

Friday, February 1, 2019 Luke 12: 32, Psalm 23

Finally Jesus reminds those listening that it is the "Father's" "Abba's" good will and pleasure to give the kingdom. Earlier, we pondered what "kingdom" might mean. That household of faith, that "king-dom" is a promise that those who follow Christ will not be alone. They are part of a community that lives out the grace, love, mercy promised in Psalm 23. *"Give us this day our daily bread"* is a statement of faith that God cares about our daily needs. God cares, but not just for individuals. God cares for all. The Lord's Prayer is plural. There is no statement for just individuals. The entire prayer has followers of Jesus praying not just for themselves but for all people. Give "us" this day, in the midst of seeking for each person's daily needs, we are called to prayer for all people's daily needs. Jesus promises that if we seek God and if we allow God to shepherd us, it is His good pleasure to grant us the kingdom of love and grace. *In what ways have you allowed yourself to trust God for what you need, to shepherd you? How do you pray for others, not just for yourself?*