



# Sunday Teaching Guide

Prayer Week 4

February 5, 2023

## Bible Texts

- Matthew 6:7-13
- Genesis 1:1-9
- John 6:5-13
- James 2:15-17
- John 5:25-35

## Important Terms

- Daily Bread: That which is essential, necessary, that without which we cannot survive.

## Sermon Notes

- Jesus began the prayer he taught his disciples by telling us that God is already listening because he is a loving God. He said God's name is also hallowed, or holy. God is a loving Father who is big enough and strong enough to hold us amid anything we face. Then, Jesus connects this to the next phrase, that we are to honor God's name by inviting God to work in and through us that his will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. Next, Jesus tells his disciples to ask God for their daily bread.
- It's clear that we are called as followers of Jesus to be generous and to provide for the needs of others. In the Gospel of John, Jesus feeds the hungry crowd who were in the middle of nowhere with real bread. A few verses later, as the crowd found Jesus again the next day, looking for more food, we see another dimension that Jesus is teaching us in this prayer. Jesus tells them that they should also be looking for food that does not spoil.
- We should recognize as we pray this prayer the everyday needs that we all share. This is "our", plural, daily bread. If we are hungry, we are praying for our daily bread, and we are praying for those who struggle to have enough. And when we have more than enough, we are praying that God would use us to meet other's needs.

## Reflection Questions

- What are some basic, everyday needs that you can ask God for help in providing for yourself or others?
- What are some spiritual needs that you ask God to provide for you or others?
- What are some physical needs that you ask God to provide for you or others?
- Because Jesus tells us to pray to God for our spiritual and physical needs, what characteristics of God do you see or what does this tell you about God?
- Do you actively try to help meet the needs of other people? If so, how?
- What are some ways that you can try to better meet the needs of other people?

## Prayer for the Week

- God, help me to recognize the needs that you fill in my life and help me to recognize the needs that I can fill in other people's lives. Amen.

## Additional Readings

- Psalm 139:1-24
- Matthew 4:4