*divING DEEPER* **Discussion Guide**

**TEXT SUMMARY**

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Today’s text, Matthew 6:11, focuses on the petition “Give us this day our daily bread,” the fourth of six petitions we are studying in “the Lord’s Prayer.”

This petition begins the second part of the Prayer. The first part of the Prayer deals with the glory and will of God, and the second, beginning with this petition, deals with our needs.

**INTRODUCTION** (observation)

It is good to stop and consider what an awesome thing it is that God wants to hear from us about our needs. The introduction to the sermon put it this way: *“There are people around us who couldn’t care less about our burdens, people who are so occupied with themselves that they have no interest in our struggles. But the God of the universe, the ruler of heaven and earth, the One who rules over nature and nations, is interested in our conversations with him. He is not too busy. He cares about the most basic needs of our lives.”*

What are we saying to God when we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread?” We are acknowledging two things about ourselves and God:

1. *that God is the Giver who cares for us*
2. *that we are dependent on God*

**READING**

Before you read the text, take a look at the questions on the back of the page.

The text of the sermon is the seven words of **Matthew 6:12**, “Give us this day our daily bread.” But for context, readMatthew 6:1-18 to see the broader picture of Jesus’s instruction on prayer.

**DISCUSSION** (interpretation)

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**Questions:**

1. Phillip Yancey observed once that “there is but one Giver in the universe; all else are debtors.” How do these texts cast light on the idea that God is our ultimate Provider?
   1. *James 1:17*
   2. *Acts 17:28*
   3. *Exodus 16:4-12*
   4. *Matthew 6:25-33*
2. In his letter to the believers in Philippi, Paul thanks them for their financial support. And yet where did Paul think his support always came from? *Read Philippians 4:10-13, 19.*

**SO WHAT?** (application)

The sermon closes with several suggested applications:

* *Pray daily for God to provide your needs.*
* *Pray with a sense of dependence on God.*
* *Be thankful for his gracious provisions.*
* *Be generous with what God has entrusted to you.*

If I were to take this mindset about my needs and God’s provision into my daily life…

* + *…how would my relationships (family, friends, co-workers, etc.) look different?*
  + *…how would my interior life look different?*
    - *thought life*
    - *fantasies and ambitions*
    - *anxieties*
    - *private prayer life*
  + *…how would my stewardship look different, the way I manage the resources God has entrusted to me?*
    - *time*
    - *gifts and abilities*
    - *social advantages*
    - *financial resources*