Study Guide

Give Us this Day

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of what we want to walk away from the discussion with —knowing, feeling and doing.

MAIN IDEA: When we have the right posture and perspective *before* we pray, we will enjoy the wonderful privileges that come *after* we pray.

> **Head Change:** To understand that when we ask with the right motives and attitude, God's answer to our petition will always empower us.
> **Heart Change:** To want for ourselves only those things that glorify God and to submit to His answers, joyfully and trustingly.
> **Life Change:** To lead lives that are at rest, knowing that God will take care of us and give us what we need.

OPEN

Make an honest, personal bucket list of all the things you'd ask for in life if you got an opportunity. Now read through the list again, categorizing your entries into two columns—needs and wants.

The heart wants what it wants. Often, our desire and longing for a particular outcome can be so overwhelming that no other outcome seems satisfactory. The Bible promises us our daily bread—enough for our needs. However, we may often feel entitled to prosperity and plenty.

In this session, Ranjit examines how adjusting our posture and perspective rewards us with the privilege of answered prayer, irrespective of whether the outcome was what we "wanted."

As you watch, write down how Ranjit answers these questions.

What are the three prerequisites to answered prayer?

What should be our posture as we pray?

What is the right perspective we need to have while praying?

How can the answer to every one of our prayers be a privilege?

WATCH

SESSION 5: *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread* (11 minutes)

REVIEW

What is the significance of each of these words or phrases—‘give us’, ‘daily’ ‘bread’.

Ranjit says that asking God for our daily bread can seem insulting. Why is this so? In what ways, do we tend to rely on ourselves for our daily bread?

Why do you think Jesus asks us to rely on God for a situation in which we feel competent? How could relying on God for our daily bread change us?

Ranjit lists a number of emotions that we face when our prayers go unanswered. What are some emotions that you grapple/have grappled with in the face of unanswered prayers?

What is the right posture that we need to cultivate while praying to God? In what ways does the preceding phrase ‘Your will be done’ guide our posture as we ask God for our daily bread?

According to Ranjit, what are some perspectives with which we tend to approach God? How can these perspectives cause havoc in our spiritual lives? How can replacing these perspectives with the right ones cause us to view prayer differently?

How can the right posture and perspective help you enjoy the privilege of answered prayer?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Matthew 7: 7—12. What does Jesus ask us to do in these verses? Who according to Jesus receives an answer?

Why do you think Jesus brings in the analogy of the earthly father? How does this encourage you today to ask?

Read Matthew 21:22, 1 John 5:14—15, James 4:3, John 14:13, James 1:6—8, John 15:7. These verses give more context about asking and receiving from God in prayer. What are some of the 'conditions' laid down in these verses?

Which conditional phrase seems most relevant to your situation? Can you share about a time when you struggled against or finally realized the 'condition' and received an answer to your prayer?

What do you think Jesus meant by 'faith' in asking? In the light of this session, how do you understand faith?

Read Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:5—7, Colossians 4:2. Have you ever wondered whether you should continue to pray for a situation, or simply accept it? How do these verses speak to you?

According to Philippians, what is a good yardstick to use at such a time?

LAST WORD

The Bible is replete with several references to bread. In Psalm 37, the psalmist makes an almost audacious claim —"I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his children begging for bread." In Exodus 16, we see God providing the Israelites their 'daily bread' in the form of manna and quail. When tempted by Satan, Jesus reminds Himself and Satan that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God. In one of the most outstanding parables, Jesus distributed bread to over 5,000 Israelites. And the greatest reference to bread comes from Jesus Himself saying, "I am the Bread of Life." This bread was distributed to the disciples and we as Christians break bread when observing communion.

Apart from being a basic necessity for survival, bread in the Bible is an enduring symbol of our trust in God and an acknowledgment of God as Source. When we understand that God is the Source, we are assured that He will meet us in our moment of need.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Memorize: Read John 6:35 and commit to memory.

Read: Read through Luke 11:5—10 and Luke 18:1—8. How are both these parables related to the concept of praying for our daily read?

Explore: Make a list of all the times in the Bible when bread is spoken about. How is the word bread used in all these different contexts? In the light of this understanding, write what you think Jesus may have meant when He asked us to pray for our daily bread.

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