

## **Study Guide: The Provision of Prayer**

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### **Introduction**

- When was the last time you felt anxious? What causes your anxiety?

Read Matthew 6:11 in the context of verses 9-13.

### **I. God's provision of our daily bread frees us from pursuing it our selves**

Jesus expounds this particular petition further down in the same chapter in verses 25-34.

- What does the need to self-provide these things lead to according to these verses?
- What is it that sets you free from anxiety over these things?
- Read Exodus 16:1-18. What was God teaching those he had set free? What do you notice about God's provision in 16-18?
- Read verses 19-20. What kind of dependence did he want them to know when it came to their relationship with God? Why do you think the Lord didn't want them to stockpile the manna? How do you see that translating to dangers for us today? (see also verse 24)

### **II. God's provision of our daily bread frees us to seek first his kingdom**

- Read Matthew 6:33. Why is it that God provides our daily needs? As you read verse 11 in the context of the preceding petitions of the Lord's Prayer, do you see this same reasoning?
- What does it mean to seek first God's Kingdom? Consider Matthew 28:18-20 when discussing.
- Paul likens our mission to a spiritual battle with the need to suit up in the armor of the Lord for battle in Ephesians 6. Have you ever considered how important a marching army's supply chain is to its success? Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "An army marches on its stomach." Alexander the Great was largely successful because of his superior supply-chain strategy which allowed him to maneuver and travel faster than his enemies.
- Have you ever considered how God's provision of our daily bread sets us free not only from worry but so that we can fulfill a particular mission?
- How does this change your perspective of this petition? What kinds of things can you do to more engage in God's mission?

### **III. The nature of daily bread**

The Greek word translated "daily" to describe bread in verse 11 is only found here in the Bible. There are potentially two roots to this word. One root definition leads to the translation, "give us today the bread we need for being" the other leads to the translation, "give us today the bread of tomorrow".

- What kinds of things might you include in the first translation?
- What might you include in the second? Read John 6:5-11 and 25-33. To what bread does Jesus refer?
- Have you tasted this bread?

### **Wrap-up**

- Jesus teaches us in this petition to ask God for daily bread so that we might trust God as our supply chain supplying us so that we might be fully engaged in the mission to which he has called the church. What changes in your own approach to life does this invite you to adopt?