

ACTION STEP

We've read several Bible verses, heard two messages and discussed. It's time to put the words into action.

This week, take your to-do list and turn it into a prayer of dependence list. Before you do anything on the list, pray first. Then, next to the list, write down how God answered your prayers.

PRAYER

Ask how you can pray for one another this week. Then, close in prayer, mentioning each request and person before the Lord. This prayer of dependence may help you...

Heavenly Father, you alone know my future. Because I am spending far too much time on the "what ifs" that plague me, I choose to lay my burdens down at your feet. I choose to trust that tomorrow is already figured out, because you are the author of every one of my tomorrows. I will take a leap of faith. I will trust you. Even when I can't see what the outcome will be. Because you truly are a good Father. Lord, help me to remember that when my mind spins onto that hamster wheel of worry, you have already figured everything out. You are faithful. You will provide. All that I am called to do is to trust. Help me to carry that out today. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

Finish by reciting The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen." — Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

LIFE AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE

Week 3: The Prayer of Dependence

For Small Group Meetings, September 28 - October 4

CONNECT BEFORE CONTENT

Continue to get to know one another. Answer this simple question... *In how many places have you lived?*

VIDEO NOTES

"Give us today our daily bread." — Matthew 6:11

⁵ Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ⁶ 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' ⁷ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' ⁸ But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

⁹ "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."
— Luke 11:5-13 NLT

If we are going to learn how to pray

we need to learn _____

"Ask... Seek... Knock..."

GIVE US

Learning to ask cultivates _____

“A thankful heart cannot be a cynical heart.” A.W. Tozer

TODAY

Learn to ask every day for _____ things

“I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.”
Luke 11:8 NLT

I rise early, before the sun is up;
I cry out for help and put my hope in your words.
Psalm 119:147 NLT

OUR

Learning to ask challenges my desire for _____

DAILY BREAD

Learning to ask invites god to _____ and _____

*“Lord give me fresh strength to get through this day:
to do my work, or go to school or to raise my kids,
and even to survive. Give me what I need today.”*

“Your Father knows exactly what you need
even before you ask him!” — Matthew 6:8 NLT

Daily bread living means believing God is good,
and will give me...

- _____ I need
- _____ I need it
- _____ I need it
- _____ that I can share it

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Luke 11:1-13 NLT

KEY QUESTION

What stood out to you from this message or scripture reading on the prayer of dependence? *(Tip: It doesn’t have to be a deep insight. It could simply be one or the points, an extra note taken, or something you remember/highlighted.)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When, if ever, have you sincerely prayed for God to provide food so that you would have something to eat—or for some other necessity? Recall that story. What happened?
2. This prayer for “daily bread” teaches us to live in acknowledgement of our daily dependence on God. How do we do that in modern society? How do you think this relates to the Biblical wisdom of saving, investing and planning?
3. How do you feel about asking God for things? How does it change your perspective knowing that he insists on you asking him for all kinds of things?
4. What are you praying for that God has yet to answer? Why do you think God does not always answer your prayers immediately? How have you experienced growth in your life by persevering in prayer?