

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

LIFE NOTES



This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Community Group or Family. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. The goal of your time is not to answer every question, but to facilitate meaningful and life giving conversation. Some questions might connect with your group more than others, so please focus on the ones pertinent to your group.

PLAN A: WEEK 5

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

In this series, we are focusing on our core value, Prayer is Plan A. Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at the Lord's Prayer. Jesus teaches us how to pray and how not to pray. He gives us the key ingredients that we can use when coming before God.

GETTING STARTED

What is your favorite food? Why? How frequently would you eat it if you could have as much as you wanted?

When was the last time you were concerned about your physical (nourishment) needs? How might that affect your prayer life?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 6:11

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

Bread – that which sustains us. On Sunday, Stephen said, "...our daily bread is a practical truth, but there is a powerful truth that is more important". In another part of Jesus' ministry, He used 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish to feed thousands. He then walked on water to catch up with disciples. The crowd following Jesus approached him the next day (less than 24 hours after these 2 miracles) looking for a sign on who God sent (doing the works God requires). Read Jesus' response in **John 6:35** and discuss what Jesus meant by being the "bread of life".

Our – that which is allotted to us. "...our bread". "Our" represents the proportion that is designed to meet our specific and unique needs. Ask how easy it is to be content with what you have vs. what you would like to have (or what others have). Read **Proverbs 30:8-9** and discuss the importance having the right amount of "bread".

Daily – how often we recognize our dependence. Stephen pointed out that the idea of daily dependence on God was not new in the Lord's Prayer, but rather has been part of God's design throughout history. Read **Exodus 16:16-20** and discuss why God emphasizes daily dependence on him.

Give – how the provision is made. Stephen also discussed the intent of "give" and the importance of understanding the basis of the relationship we have with God when receiving a gift. Ask, "When you pray, do you see God as your father who wants to bless and provide for you?" Why/Why not? Discuss the importance of our daily bread being a gift.

Us – the full reach of our gift. The word “us” in Matthew 6:11 implies ourselves and those connected to us. We also read how the early church responded to trusting God modeled being generous (**read Acts 2:42-47**). Ask, “Why is it hard to be generous?” Ask, “What would cause me to be more generous?”

MOVING FORWARD

Tension vs. Control. Stephen concluded the message describing the tension we face between trusting God and having control. Using the wall of self-preservation, he described what prevents us from being able to freely receive God’s gift and provision. Using the tool below, ask everyone if there is one of the self-preservation questions that is preventing them from fully releasing their need(s) to the Lord:

SELF PRESERVATION

- 1. What are you afraid of losing?**
- 2. What are you trying to hide?**
- 3. What are you trying to prove? To whom?**



PRAY TOGETHER

Take some time and pray over each other and breaking through the wall of self-preservation to God’s provision