

GiFT

The Lord's Prayer

5: Give us this day our daily bread (i)

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Last session we thought about what the Kingdom of God might be like and we were invited to think about those people, situations and places where we long to see the healing, transforming love of God at work – and to think about how we might commit ourselves to be part of that Kingdom life. This session, and the next, we are reflecting on the petition that we might be given each day our daily bread, a petition which still sits within this broad vision of the Kingdom of God

An ice-breaker for the group:

- What is your favourite food and what is your favourite setting or context for eating food?

Now, chatting in twos can you reflect on the following questions:

- Feeding ourselves is fundamental to life and yet issues around food can be quite complex and challenging. Can you think about the issues that concern you? What are they and how do they affect you?

Please share your thoughts with the whole group.

- Again, sharing in twos: As we hear and discuss issues concerning food, and raise different concerns and ideas, how does it affect the way we think about the petition: Give us this day our daily bread?

Once again, please share your thoughts with the whole group.

- Once more, sharing in twos: What do you think Jesus had in mind when he taught this line in the prayer?

Once again, please share your thoughts with the group.

We are now going to look at three bible passages which speak about food and about providing food? First we are going to look at one of the temptations of Jesus. Please ask someone to read it and then reflect on the passage together. The questions may help to guide your thoughts and discussion.

Matthew 4.1-4, 11

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

- *Jesus has just been baptised and is now in the desert being tempted.* Why do you think stones and bread formed one of the three temptations Jesus wrestled with?
 - What is this temptation about? Is it just about him being hungry or is it more than that?
 - Why do you think it was important for Jesus to resist this temptation?

The next passage is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and is quite a challenging passage. Again, please ask someone to read it and then reflect on the passage together. Once again, the questions may help to guide your thoughts and discussion.

Matthew 6.25-end

Do not worry

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

- How do you respond to the passage as a whole?
- How do you respond to Jesus telling us not to worry...?
- Jesus will, surely, have been very mindful of poverty and famine so what do you think he is trying to teach us?

James 2.14-17

Faith without Works Is Dead

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

We are only getting a tiny snippet of the Epistle of James here but hopefully we get a sense of his concerns.

- What are your reactions to this passage?
- What kind of community is James encouraging?

CLOSING PRAYERS