

Talking Points

Teach Us To Pray, Part 4

Life Groups at the Grove are designed to help participants develop a growing relationship with God *through relational intimacy with one another*. It's about relationships. So please remember the following:

- Genuine openness with your group members is critical. Dare to be as open as you can be. See whether that openness doesn't encourage the same in others.
- Please keep what you hear in your groups *within* your group.

Coming Together

1. You buy a new TV. It's more awesome than any TV you ever imagined. You are content. Six months later, Sony introduces a brand new technology that makes yours look dated. Your most likely reaction:
 - a) None. You will remain content indefinitely.
 - b) Anger: "Figures! It's all a conspiracy!"
 - c) Denial: "No way is that better than what I have."
 - d) Grudging acknowledgment plus sanctimony: "I suppose it is a *little* better than mine, but I have better things to spend my money on."
 - e) Unconditional surrender: "Honey, I'm going to Best Buy... uh, no reason."
2. Last week we were encouraged to try embracing the "transforming truths of the kingdom," including this one: "You are loved by God and matter to Him." If you tried living that idea this week, did anything change? What obstacles did you face?

Going Deeper

1. Give an example of a person (you or someone you know) who has expressed *feeling* as if he or she did not have enough but who, in reality, had a great deal. How do you think God feels when His children stand at a full closet or refrigerator and complain that they need more?
2. Do you feel confident approaching God with your needs? Read Hebrews 4:14–16 and 1 Peter 5:7. What do these two passages specifically have to say about approaching God with our needs?

3. The message this week mentioned six transformations (fear to confidence, troubled to trusting, etc.) that will take place in us when we pray, "Give us this day, our daily bread." Which of the six transformations do you need to work on most?
4. What four-word phrase helped Snoopy overcome discontentment one Thanksgiving as he ate his dog food outside? Do you think this phrase might help you be more content, too? Why or why not?

Making It Real

1. Although the Bible tells us to bring our needs to God, have you ever felt like you shouldn't?
2. Two ideas key to this week's message (and last week's) were (1) God cares about us, and (2) we matter to Him. When is it hardest for you to accept these truths as facts?
3. Have you ever been like the teen who pouts that she has nothing to wear or the one who shouts that there's nothing to eat? Describe a time when you were that person. What, if anything, led you—or shook you—out of that frame of mind?

Moving Forward

The message identified six "transformations" that can arise when we pray, "Give us this day, our daily bread":

- Fear to confidence
- Grumbling to gratitude
- Selfishness to selflessness
- Troubled to trusting
- Greed to Contentment
- Living To Life

Each day this week, as you pray for your needs, try focusing on a different one of the transformations. Note any changes in the way you pray and what you pray for.

Readings for Going Deeper

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.