6th-8th Small Group Time

**February 10th, 2021 @7:15-8 pm**

**Lord’s Prayer 4: Daily Bread**

**Instructions**

*Be sure to start on a positive note. Welcome each learner by name. Let them know you're glad they're here! If anyone is absent, mention you'll be praying for that person together. Small Group Time is for give-and-take discussion. Your main job is to draw learners out and get them talking about the theme. Ask open-ended questions that will provoke responses. Once the conversation begins, intervene only to bring it back on track or to stimulate more talk.*

Exodus 12:21–23; Luke 22:14–23

Big Idea: Praying for daily bread reminds us that God provides us with everything we need.

Learning Goal: Learners will experience daily bread as the broadest range of gifts from God that give meaning to everyday life.

Keywords: ABUNDANCE; HUNGER; CONTENTMENT; GRACE

• We may pray for our daily bread.

• Daily bread includes whatever we need for daily existence, such as food, clothing, family, work, and so forth.

• When we see those who do not have enough "daily bread" we may be tempted to think that God has withheld the necessities, but God desires all to have enough.

• As God's hands in the world, this prayer calls us to be sure all can participate in God's abundance.

• There will be enough to go around. Our concern is for our *daily* bread. We need not fret about the reliability of God's ability to provide.

Discussion Time

1. Help students dive into the Key Words by asking for definitions and/or providing these definitions:

-ABUNDANCE is having more than you need. It can be a chance to share God's generosity with others who may have less.

-HUNGER can mean experiencing a lack of food, but it can also mean longing for something such as acceptance, love, or friendship.

-CONTENTMENT means being satisfied with what you have, no matter how much or how little that might be.

-GRACE means that everything you have is a free gift from God.

2. If God gives so much daily bread to some people, why does God seem to give so little to others?

3. If everyone gets "everything needed for this life," why should I concern myself with the needs of other people?

4. If God gives me my daily bread "even without my praying for it," why do I need to be grateful for it?

5. Describe how you feel when you see TV ads for hunger-relief charity organizations, especially ones showing hungry people in other countries. Do you change the channel? Why? *(Affirm that wanting to look away is a common human response to suffering, but the root emotion is probably empathy—a valuable gift from God that reminds us how important it is to be grateful for our daily bread.)* What might you do to help? *(Suggest sponsoring a hungry child as a group, or commit to daily prayer for those who are hungry.)*

6. Tell about a time when you were really, really hungry. What did it feel like? What were the physical effects? *(Affirm all thoughtful responses. Consider going online ahead of time and looking up "symptoms of starvation." Print a list to stimulate the conversation.)*

7. Talk about a time when you ate way too much at one meal. What did it feel like? *(Be prepared for some gross answers on this one. The point is to talk about overindulging as poor stewardship of the daily bread God gives.)*

8. Name three slices of your daily bread that are NOT food, and tell why you're grateful for them. *(Affirm all thoughtful answers: family, friends, a favorite activity, and so forth. Read aloud the description of "daily bread" in the Fourth Petition in the Small Catechism, and talk about all the things that are "daily bread.")*

9. When do you pray? How do you pray? Whom do you pray for?

**Open the Catechism**

1. Find the Fourth Petition in the Small Catechism (*p. 19-20*). Read the first part of Luther's explanation and reflect in silence: What does it say about God that God provides enough daily bread for all people to have enough? What does it say about humans that some people do not have enough? Share your insights and questions with the group.

-Consider as a group what "daily bread" is according to Luther. What about the list surprises you? What would you add to the list? Do you know of people who do not have what God intends?

**Bible Connection**

1. Have learners open their Bibles to the Passover story (Exodus 12) and ask a volunteer to read verses 21–23 aloud. Briefly recap the Passover story for learners Remind them that from the beginning God has sealed the people's deliverance with a meal!

2. Have learners open their Bibles to Luke 22:14–23 and ask a volunteer to read it aloud. Remind learners that the Last Supper was the Passover celebration, recalling the ancient liberation of the Israelites from slavery. This is the holy meal we still participate in today when we share Holy Communion! What a wondrous gift of God's grace that we have such incredible food for the journey of life—the same food that has sustained God's people since the very beginning.

3. Have learners turn to Exodus 16:13–15. Recap: the Israelites are wandering in the wilderness; when they grow hungry they complain to Moses and pine for their slavery in Egypt when they had enough to eat. Moses takes their complaint to the Lord, who responds with a beautiful miracle: manna. Remind learners that God provides for all our needs all the time.

4. Have learners open their Bibles to 1 Kings 19:4–9 and ask a volunteer to read the passage aloud. Recap: Demonstrating the Lord's power, Elijah has killed all Queen Jezebel's false prophets. Now he's on the run, fearing for his life. The Lord sends an angel with food, comforts him, and restores him to his difficult and solitary task. The combination of food and God's word provides Elijah with strength for the journey! Ask learners how much food they would need to survive forty days and nights. Were Elijah's bread and water spiritual or physical nourishment? Discuss.