

All Age Worship Service

(AAW003)

The Lord's Prayer 3: “Give us today our daily bread”

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THE LORD'S PRAYER 3: "GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD"

Service Aim:

To teach what it means to pray: "Give us today our daily bread"

Biblical Reference(s):

Matthew 6:9-13, James 1:17, Nehemiah 9:19-21, Luke 11:5-13, Romans 8:32, John 6:48,

Outline of Service:

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|-------------------|---|
| Welcome: | Introduce the theme |
| Opening Prayer: | |
| Opening songs: | <u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Warm up: | "Family Fortunes" asking "Tell me something that God provides for us" |
| Link: | God is our PROVIDER |
| Reading: | Nehemiah 9:19-21 |
| Talk 1: | God provided for all of the Israelites' needs for forty years in the desert. |
| Challenge: | Two tables with bread; one overflowing and the other mainly empty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you trust God to provide for your needs? |
| Song: | <u>Songs celebrating God's provision</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Link: | Jesus taught us how to ask for what we need. |
| Drama: | Luke 11:5-13 |
| Talk 2: | We are to ASK boldly for what we need each day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we ask, we RECEIVE for God is good (Romans 8:32) |
| Quiz: | The difference between asking for what we NEED and what we WANT |
| Praying: | Asking for what we need, then receiving bread |
| Songs: | <u>Song/s thanking the Lord for his goodness</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Intro Confession: | Our deepest need is to be restored into relationship with God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus said He is the "bread of life" (John 6:48-51a) |
| Confession: | Praying for forgiveness and to be re-filled with the Holy Spirit. |
| Prayers: | Praying for the needs of the world..... |
| Summary: | God is our Provider and with Him there is generous provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are to ask boldly for what we need - our "daily bread" • When we ask for what we need, we receive for God is good. |
| Final song: | <u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1) |
| Blessing: | |

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the line of "The Lord's Prayer" that says "Give us today our daily bread"

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

**Lord we are here to worship you.
Would you meet with us through your Spirit,
Teach us through your Word,
Show us where we need to change,
And give us all we need to serve you in the world.
For the glory of your name. Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm up:

The warm up is a version of the game "Family Fortunes"² with two teams (of say three people in each) taking it in turns to answer the question: "*Can you tell me something that God provides for us?*" Each team has three goes at offering answers to the question. If they get an answer wrong, use the sound³ from the "Family fortunes" show.

A couple of weeks before this service ask as many people as possible to give you an answer to the question: "Can you tell me something that God provides for us?" Collate their answers and write down the top six on a flip-chart or computer screen ready for this service.

Keep the answers covered up until one team guesses a right answer, at which point it can be revealed. The team with the most uncovered answers (after three goes) wins – you might consider giving them a prize! (N.B – This is not how family fortunes normally works!)

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603

² If you don't know how the game "Family Fortunes" is played, you can find episodes of it on u-tube at www.youtube.com

³ The sound from the "Family Fortunes" show can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XMW6Z_Oq38

Link:

God is our Provider and He is totally generous,

- providing all that we need through our lives;
 - the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink,
 - family and friends,
 - love, forgiveness, peace and wisdom,
 - sleep and energy,
 - education and health care,
 - hope,
 - and so the list goes on.

James 1:17 tells us that every good gift we have, comes from our Heavenly Father, who does not change, but is faithful to us.

Some of you might say in response to that: “So why are so many people starving?”

- Surely there isn’t enough food to go around?

The truth is that the world produces enough food to feed everyone,⁴

- but we have failed to share it out properly.
- God has provided, but we have mismanaged what He has given to us.
- God is generous.

In the Lord’s Prayer Jesus teaches us to come to our Provider God and pray: “Give us today our daily bread.”

- Now Jesus wasn’t simply telling us to ask God for the bread we eat,
- He was using the word “bread” to mean all of our daily needs.

So let us look at one example of how God provided for His people’s needs hundreds of years ago.

- You may remember how God’s people, the Israelites endured hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt,
- and how God raised up a leader called Moses, who led God’s people out of Egypt and slavery and into the wilderness, where they spent forty years.
- Listen to how God provided for them.

Reading:

The reading is Nehemiah 9:19-21 and can be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible. Encourage people to listen hard to what God provided for his people as you will be asking them after the reading.

Talk 1:

God provided for all of the Israelites’ needs for forty years in the desert.

This talk works really well if it is illustrated with the appropriate pictures using power-point.

Can anyone remember what God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness?

- There were six things mentioned in the reading.
- You might like to get your bible out and have a look.

⁴ See: <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/faqs>
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- 1) The first and most important thing God provided for the people was **HIS PRESENCE**.
 - His presence was shown by the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire that led the people day and night.
 - God didn't leave them alone in the wilderness to fend for themselves,
 - but He went with them, leading them to the Promised land.
- 2) The second thing God provided for the people was **HIS SPIRIT**.
 - The Spirit was given to teach the people God's ways of living,
 - So that they could enjoy walking in fellowship with God.
- 3) The third thing God provided for the people was **FOOD** in the form of something called "manna."
 - In the wilderness there were no shops to go to and buy food from.
 - There were no mobile phones so they could ring Egypt and order a takeaway.

The people were totally dependent upon God for everything,

- and each day God provided this substance called manna,
- which the Israelites would go and collect,
- apart from the day before the Sabbath when God sent double portions, so they could rest.

4) The fourth thing God provided for the people was **WATER**.

- In the Wilderness there were no taps to turn on for their water.
- Again the people were completely dependent upon God for this basic of life.

5) The fifth thing God provided for the people was **CLOTHING**.

- When our clothes wear out, we go out and buy new don't we? But there are no shops in the wilderness.
- The way God provided clothes for his people over forty years was to enable their clothes to never wear out!
- Now they may have got bored wearing the same things each day,
- but they had what they needed.

6) And finally the sixth thing God provided for the people was **HEALTH**.

- According to the reading we heard earlier, the people had everything they needed even to the point that their feet didn't get swollen,
- which with all the walking that they did, is amazing.

So God provided faithfully and generously,

- giving the people their "daily bread",
- day by day,
- For forty years.

Challenge:

Bring out to the front two tables, which are covered with table-cloths. Remove the table-cloths to show what is on the tables.

Table one is absolutely covered with bread of all different shapes, sizes and kinds.

Table two has one small piece of bread on it.

You might say something like:

Look at these tables. Which table do you think shows us what God is really like?

- Is it table 1 with its generous provision, with more than enough for everyone?
- Or is it table 2 with little provision, in fact nowhere near enough to go around?

I wonder whether in your heart of hearts you believe that your Heavenly Father is able to give **you** what you need?

- He gave the Israelites what they needed in the desert all those years ago.
- He hasn't changed.....
- Are you willing to trust Him?

Song:

Songs celebrating God's provision as per Appendix 1

Link:

Jesus taught us how to ask for what we need

So how should we approach God our Father with our needs?

- Do we come fearfully, trembling like Oliver Twist did when he asked for "more" gruel from the Master?
- Do we come reluctantly, because we don't want to disturb Father God with our small needs when there are so many bigger things going on in the world?
- Watch this dramatized reading and see how Jesus told us to approach God with our needs.

Drama:

The dramatized reading is Luke 11:5-13 (taken from The Message Version) and can be found in Appendix 2

Talk 2:

Jesus tells us to come boldly to our Heavenly Father and **ASK** Him for what we need each day.

- We don't need to be fearful or reluctant because our Father loves us.

When we ask, Jesus says that we will **RECEIVE**

- and the reason that we will receive is because our Heavenly Father is good.
- He is the perfect, loving and good father.
- He doesn't need his arm twisting like the friend did in the drama.

St Paul says this in Romans 8:32 *"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"*

- If our Heavenly Father was willing to give us the most precious gift of all,
- the gift of His Son Jesus,
- then St Paul says that He will be willing to give us lesser things if we ask.

Isn't that amazing?

- All we need to do is ask, and our Father is willing to give.

Now one word of caution here....

- Asking our Heavenly Father to provide for a need we have does not mean that we don't have to do anything to receive it!
- When God provided manna in the wilderness for the Israelites, they still had to go out each day and collect it.
- Effort was required on their part to receive it.

It is highly unlikely that our Heavenly Father will provide us with food each day,

- by simply dropping it down from heaven to land on our dinner plates.

It is far more likely that He will provide the food on our tables by giving us paid work to do.

- This work provides us with the money,
- to be able to receive the food He wants to give us.

Or think for a moment about the spiritual food we need each day.....

- Our Heavenly Father has already provided it in His Word – the Bible,
- but we need to put the effort in to read the Bible
- so that we can receive that spiritual food.

Be encouraged this morning to come to your Heavenly Father and ask Him for what you need,

- because Jesus says that when we do that, we will receive.

Now for our prayers to be answered, we do also need to understand the difference between “needs and wants!”

- God has promised to provide for our needs, but not for our wants.
- So let's have a look at some pictures and work out what might be a **NEED** and what might be a **WANT**.

Quiz:

Invite two people to come to the front, and give one a label to hold up that says: “NEEDS” and give the other a label to hold that says: “WANTS.” Make a series of cards with words on, which you can then illustrate with pictures on power-point which can be projected.

Read out one at a time the words on your cards (with picture projected) and ask the congregation to decide whether the item goes into the “NEEDS” category or the “WANTS” category. Having decided the category, give the card to the appropriate person holding that label.

Examples of words/pictures for the category “WANTS” include the following:

- New Ferrari
- Holiday to the Seychelles
- Winning the lottery
- New ipad
- New TV with larger screen
- Mobile phone
- Ralph Lauren t-shirt

- Swimming pool in back garden
- All A* grades in exams
- To be the most popular person at school / college / work

Examples of words/pictures for the category “NEEDS” include the following:

- God’s PRESENCE (Matthew 28:20)
- The HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:13)
- FOOD & WATER (1Timothy 6:8)
- CLOTHING (1Timothy 6:8)
- HEALTH (Exodus 15:26)
- Biblical truth (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- Spiritual Gifts (1Corinthians 12:31)
- Wisdom (James 1:5)
- Love (1Corinthians 13:13)

You might like to follow the quiz by saying something like:

How often do you really ask God for your needs?

- Or do you more often ask Him for your wants and are then surprised when your prayer isn’t answered?
- Ask for what you really need and you will receive.

Praying:

Tell people that you are going to give them an opportunity to ask God for what they need today. Pass around paper and pencils so that each person has a piece of paper and a pencil. If you have a large congregation, give the paper and pencils to people as they come into church. You might say something like:

Put down on your piece of paper what you need today – you can either write or draw a picture of it.

- It might be one of the things we mentioned earlier,
- or it might be something completely different.

Let’s take a few moments of quiet as we do that.

Once you have given people a couple of minutes to write, say something like:

Let’s pray.

In your mind’s eye hold the need you have on your paper before the Lord. PAUSE

Now let’s pray together.

Father, thank you for Jesus’ promise that if we ask, we will receive.

We ask you to give us today our daily bread,

and especially to provide for the need that is on our hearts.

For the glory of your name. Amen.

Invite people to come and lay their papers on a large silver tray at the front of the church as a symbolic way of handing over their need to God.

On their way back to their seats, invite them to take and eat a piece of one of the breads from Table 1 as a way of trusting that God will provide for them.

Songs:

Song/s thanking the Lord for his goodness as per Appendix 1

Intro to Confession:

If I asked you what your greatest need of all is I wonder what you would say?

- I'll give you a hint.
- Jesus said in John 6:48-51a, *"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven."*

Jesus came to satisfy our deepest need:

- Our need to be forgiven for our sins so that we can be brought into a life-giving relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Confession and Absolution:

Invite people to allow the Holy Spirit to show them any sins that they need to confess.

Lead into a Confession prayer. This could be:

- an informal Confession prayer led by the service leader or
- a Confession prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship" that the congregation can say together.

Follow this with a prayer of Absolution. This could be:

- an informal prayer led by the service leader to include praying for people to re-filled with the Holy Spirit or
- an Absolution prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship."

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family or by a Sunday school group etc. Three or four simple prayers would work well, praying for different needs for:

- The world,
- The country,
- The neighbourhood,
- Individuals or families

End with the Lord's Prayer

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

God is our Provider and with Him there is generous provision

- We are to ask for what we need - our "daily bread"
- When we ask for what we need, we receive for God is good.

Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

May you leave here knowing that Father God delights to meet your needs,
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just
before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Come you thankful people come to praise (Sam Hargreaves © 2009 RESOUNDworship.org)
- Let everything that, everything that (Matt Redman © 1997 Thankyou Music)
- Through all the changing scenes of life (N.Tate & N.Brady)
- What an amazing God we've got (Amazing) (Nick and Becky Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)

ii) Songs celebrating God's provision. Ideas include:

- Father of lights (John Barnett © 1991 Mercy Publishing)
- Great is your faithfulness (Chris Tomlin © 2002 sixsteps Music/worshiptogether.com songs)
- Jehovah Jireh my provider (Merla Watson © 1974 Catacombs Productions/Thankyou Music)
- My God is so big (Author unknown)
- My God shall supply all my needs (Ishmael © 1993 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Shout for joy and sing (David Fellingham © 1988 Thankyou Music)

iii) Song(s) thanking the Lord for His goodness. Ideas include:

- All glory to the King of ages (Paul Oakley & Chris Spring © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Come, let us worship the King of Kings (Nathan Fellingham © 2001 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Come on let's celebrate (John Hardwick © 2001 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Give thanks to the Lord our God (Chris Tomlin © 2000 worshiptogether.com songs)
- God is good, we sing and shout it (Graham Kendrick © 1985 Thankyou Music)
- Oh the Lord is good (Graham Kendrick © 1996 Make Way Music)
- Praise God from whom all blessings (Andy Piercy & Dave Clifton © 1993 IQ Music Ltd)

iv) Final song. Ideas include:

- All I once held dear (Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music)
- Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (William Williams)
- Now thank we all our God (Martin Rinkart)
- Seek ye first the Kingdom of God (Karen Lafferty © 1972 CCCM Music / Maranatha! Music)
- Water you turned into wine (Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin & Jesse Reeves © 2010 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – Dramatized Reading: Luke 11:5-13 (Message Version)

Cast: Narrator, Person, Friend (dressed in dressing gown), boy, Father, Devil (dressed in a black cape), girl

Props: Cardboard door, 3 loaves of bread, plate with mackerel on it, plate with snake on it (*you can purchase a realistic plastic snake from eBay cheaply*), hardboiled egg, spider (*you can purchase a realistic large plastic spider from eBay cheaply*)

Beforehand: Before the drama begins the “friend” needs to be positioned somewhere high up at the front of the church eg in the pulpit or behind a high cardboard door with a “window” cut out at the top of it. (as if he were upstairs in his bedroom)

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Narrator: Jesus said: *“Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night.”*

(Enter Person who walks over to the base of the pulpit or wherever the “friend is.” He bangs on the pulpit as if he is banging on a front door (you might want to use sound effects) and then shouts:)

Person: Hey, Bill my friend.....lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up and I don't have a thing to give him.

(Friend appears at the top of the pulpit (or through an “upstairs window”) yawning and stretching and bleary eyed)

Friend: Don't bother me. The door's locked; my children are all down for the night; I can't get up to give you anything.

(Friend disappears. Person keeps on banging on the door)

Person: Come on Bill I need your help

Friend (shouts) Go away.....I've told you the door's locked.

(Person keeps on banging on the door)

Person: I'm not going away Bill until you help me

Narrator: Jesus said: *“But let me tell you, even if he won't get up because he's a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbours, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need.”*

(Friend appears at the bottom of the pulpit – (or from behind the cardboard door) and hands over 3 loaves of bread)

Friend: Here you are. Now please let me get some sleep.

Person: Thank you so much Bill.....you're a friend.

(Exit Friend and person)

Narrator: Jesus said: *“Here's what I'm saying: Ask and you'll get; Seek and you'll find; Knock and the door will open. “Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in.”*

(Enter boy and Father)

Boy: Dad please can I have that mackerel in the fridge – I'm starving.

(Father wanders over to a pretend “fridge” and picks up the plate with the mackerel on it. As he walks over to the boy the Devil comes alongside him holding a plate with a snake on it and saying:)

Devil: Here give this to your little boy – it’s a live, poisonous snake!

Father: Go away. I wouldn’t dream of giving my son a snake when he has asked me for a fish.

(Exit Devil. Father walks over to the boy and gives him the mackerel)

Father: Here you are Fred.....enjoy this mackerel.

Boy: Thanks Dad.

(Exit boy)

Narrator: Jesus said: *“If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate?”*

(Enter girl)

Girl: I’m so hungry dad.....please can I have the hardboiled egg that’s in the fridge?

(Father wanders over to a pretend fridge and picks up an egg. As he walks over to the girl the Devil comes alongside him holding a spider and saying:)

Devil: Give this to your little girl – it would be a great trick to play on her!

Father: No way. She hates spiders. I wouldn’t be that mean. Now go away.

(Father walks over to the girl and gives her the egg)

Father: Here you are Janet.....enjoy this egg.

Girl: Thanks Dad.

(Exit girl and dad)

Narrator: Jesus said: *“If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn’t think of such a thing—you’re at least decent to your own children. And don’t you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?”*