

March 22 Small Group Questions – Lord’s Prayer

1. In Jamie’s personal story we learn about his struggle with Trust, as it relates to others and to God. He then states that trust is at the heart of the petition in the Lord’s Prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread.” In your own life, have you found similar sorts of trust issues which make it difficult, or even impossible to relate to others, and to God? If so, how has your desire to seek reconciliation been shaped by Sunday’s message?

This is an opportunity to allow others to enter into a more vulnerable reflective time with one another. Allow for space and time as the participants sum up the courage to reveal those things in their lives which have led to trust issues both with loved ones and with God. Share around the group and then toward the end suggest a time of extemporaneous prayer. Have everyone pray, in turn, for the person to their right, asking God through His Holy Spirit to direct the intercessory prayer on behalf of the other.

2. In the Lord’s prayer we learn from Jesus that, “your Father [in heaven] knows what you need before you ask him.” This is then further illustrated through the presentation of Psalm 139:1-4, in which King David reveals that it is God’s nature to know us completely. How does this influence, or change your current understanding of prayer as it relates to God?

In thinking about our needs during the current pandemic, it might be helpful for individuals to reflect on God’s desire to listen to us, and in fact, focus on the fact that He is deeply interested in all of us, so much so, that He has a deeply intimate knowledge of all our thoughts, feelings, beliefs, and actions.

3. God heard the grumbling of his people in the Exodus account of the “wilderness of sin” experience and in response to their cries He sent *manna* for the Israelites to collect every morning, and a double portion the morning before the day of rest. Have you ever noticed in your own life that your grumbling, or silent prayers, are being heard, and those requests or needs being met?

Allow the group time to reflect. Perhaps a few members may reveal a story which relates to this idea that God has met a silent need. It might be something simple, or something grand. If anything, it is an opportunity to offer members of the group time to search themselves, as God does, and reveal to them that He has been working in the background of their lives bringing about His will for his children.

4. In the knowledge that God is constantly listening to our inner thoughts are there any issues that you thought were completely your own, without anyone else’s knowledge, but now you realize that God has known all along? What can you do to seek healing and forgiveness?

Perhaps, the conversation could also be directed to those behaviours which we keep silent to ourselves due to embarrassment, or shame? It might surprise people to know

that nothing is hidden from God, including our shadow selves. In this lenten season it might be suggested that people, as they take stalk of their lives, seek out the parish priest, and engage in a time of confession to admit all things to God and to another trusted person to allow for freedom and healing from past sin, and wounding. Be prayerful, and offer careful encouragement!

5. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us how to make requests of God for our daily needs. The language he uses is very powerful and direct. Too that end, knowing that when you pray "give us" is a command, of-a-kind, how does this affect your view of the importance of praying for your daily needs? What sorts of things might you begin to pray for which you had not considered in you previous prayer requests?

In the sermon Jamie illustrated that this form of command/request might be similar to the act of asking our parents, or loved one's to meet specific requests which we ask of them. You might consider taking a survey of hands to see if people agree with this concept, or disagree. Then ask for responses from both sides to explore these questions in more depth.