

Living on a Prayer – Daily Bread



Jesus has gathered some followers and is now “branding” this highly missional and communal movement. It’s as if Jesus is saying, “You are significant to God. God is significant to you. Let’s live significantly.” To live significantly is, in part, to depend solely on trusting God’s goodness and grace. How can we understand this petition, not as part of a larger check-list or self-help manual to apply to our lives, but as a **Living Word** that our lives surrender to? As we surrender to the petition, we are given the freedom to re-imagine our situation. The Living Word breaks in, opens up and drops us at the feet of

Jesus, who declares the Kingdom of God is at hand.

January 2 – Daily Bread

Prayer is a lived response to our trust in God. To petition “give us this day our daily bread” is to trust that God will provide. God promises to make all things new, but some days it’s a promise that’s hard to hold on to.

We see plenty of death and sorrow and crying and pain in this world. How can we hold on to hope?

The answer is that God sustains us with glimpses of the promise, nibbles of the promised banquet. A beautiful sunrise after a difficult night. The embrace of a loved one when our heart has been broken. Music or art that moves us to tears of joy just when we thought our hearts were too hard to weep. The smile of a stranger, just when we thought no one cared. The bread and the wine of communion, just when we thought we were beyond forgiveness and redemption.

January 9 - The Wide and Gaping Landfill

In our country, we individually create 4.5 pounds of waste per person per day. This equals 1,642.5 tons of waste per person per year (EPA statistics). Are we really praying for our daily bread? What do we mean by daily bread? To petition “give us this day our daily bread” gives us the opportunity to repent in those areas of our life that have skewed priorities.

January 16 - The Not-So-Random Extreme Makeover

God’s heart beats a rhythm of restoration, and our hearts are invited to join the dance. To petition “give us this day our daily bread” is to move into partnership with God to be a systematic and sustainable answer to this petition for others.

January 23 - Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

Our efforts are to the glory of God. To petition “give us this day our daily bread” is to give praise to our God for God’s power and majesty.

Living on a Prayer – Forgive our Sins



Why do the Scriptures spend so much time talking about relationships? How do we love our neighbor well? How do we truly forgive?

Many of us still believe, deep down, that God’s love for us is conditional, contingent upon whether we believe all the right things, or do all the right things.

And since none of us gets it all right, we live at best uncertain of God’s love, and at worst pretty sure that God is deeply disappointed in our mediocrity. The greatest challenge to being a disciple of Jesus Christ is daring to believe that God loves us as much as the cross says that God loves us.

For most of us, relationships are both the source of our greatest joy and our greatest pain. In this series, we’ll explore relational health, gleaning God’s wisdom, surrendering our pain and our failures, and claiming God’s healing.

January 30 – Loved

Hurting people hurt people. So often our inability to love others well stems from the reality that we, ourselves, don’t feel loved. God’s radical love in Jesus is the embrace our hearts long for and the foundation for loving others well.

February 6 – Loving

“All you need is love.” While this is true, it isn’t always easy to know what real love looks like in real life.

February 13 – Forgiving

“An eye for an eye” will only create a blind society. Jesus empowers us to extend forgiveness, initiating reconciliation and setting both parties truly free.

February 20 – Encouraging

“Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me” is one of the greatest lies ever told! Words have the power to give life or destroy it.

February 27 – Caring

Ben Franklin once said, “want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge.” Care is love in action. Learning how to effectively care for people when they’re hurting is critical.

March 6 – Befriending

“To the world, you may just be one person, but to one person you may be the world.” Friendship has the power to change lives, ours and others. Building genuine friendships for the sake of the Kingdom is also the foundation of Planting Seeds

Living on a Prayer – Lead Us Not into Temptation



We’re all going to have those moments in our lives when we resist temptation valiantly.

There will, no doubt, be many times when we fail miserably.

But in any case, the good news rings loudly, and with clarity: God loves us fully, completely and unconditionally. And just when we think we can’t go on, the message comes to us again. We are saved by grace, justified, forgiven, sought out, beloved, hidden in Christ and made for the glory of God. We are known, we are never forsaken, we are held in the palm of God’s hand.

Lent is a time of repentance, self-examination, and confession. This is a time for us to consider how cultural forces press on us and tempt us to place our loyalties and passions where they don’t belong. We will walk this journey through Lent with a cross of ashes on our forehead toward the bright light of Easter morning. Along the way we will stop and ponder the temptations of Jesus, a man named Nicodemus, a woman at a well, a man born blind, and a dead man named Lazarus brought back to life.

March 13 – Lead Us ... Avoiding the Unavoidable

As the Son of God confronts the temptations of the evil one, we also are faced with the temptations of power, prestige, and possessions. We are confronted with similar temptations every day.

March 20 – Lead Us ... Speaking the Unspeakable

Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about a new kind of living in the Spirit and the Kingdom of God. These words are clearly rejected by Nicodemus’ own friends, and he comes at night to have a spiritual conversation. He faces the temptation of conforming to pressure from his peers. We are called to give voice to God’s call to Kingdom living.

March 27 – Lead Us ... Loving the Unlovable

This Samaritan woman is tempted to believe she's unlovable, and she has a trail of failed relationships to prove it. Jesus steps over all kinds of cultural and religious obstacles to offer new hope and life to a woman at a well. God is calling us away from our feelings of unworthiness into a new way of interacting with one another.

April 3 – Lead Us ... Forgiving the Unforgivable

This person born blind is tempted to believe that he's being punished for the sins of someone in his family. He lives in the darkness of his perceptions of an angry God, and Jesus is able to help him step into a new kind of light. Because of the light of Christ, we can be God's agents of forgiveness and healing.

April 10 – Lead Us ... Believing the Unbelievable

The vision of Ezekiel's valley of dry bones parallels the tomb of death in the story of Lazarus. The people of Israel are tempted to believe they are dead in their exile and can never return to life. So, too, the family of Lazarus is tempted to believe that once dead, Lazarus can never come back to life. But because of Christ, everything is possible.

April 17 (Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday) – Lead Us ... Bearing the Unbearable

"As we enter Holy Week, Jesus prays "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." The road of suffering and death is before him, and he will not only bear the cross on his way to Calvary, but the weight of the restoration and reconciliation of all of humanity. We are called to bear one another through every temptation and trial.

Living on a Prayer – Deliver Us From Evil

Holy Week - No Services - Scripture passages are provided each day for your personal study and reflection.

Just as Israel was delivered from slavery in Egypt, when we pray "deliver us from evil" we are asking God to take away those things that negatively impact our body, soul, property or possessions. In the next three days, Jesus confronts evil and ultimately defeats sin, death, and the devil through his suffering, death, and resurrection. As followers of Jesus we pray this petition with the certainty that comes from knowing the end of the story.

April 21: Maundy Thursday Deliver Us from Evil Within

EXODUS 12:1-4, 11-14; JOHN 13:1-17, 31b-35

Israel's deliverance from slavery comes full circle as Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples. We need to be delivered from anything that would prevent us from fully loving one another and caring for each other.

April 22: Good Friday Deliver Us from Evil Without

PSALM 22; JOHN 18:1-19:42

Jesus confronts the forces of evil and defeats the powers of sin as he dies on the cross. Jesus is the new King in a new Kingdom. We are called to follow him, trust him, and live according to his way.

Living on a Prayer – Kingdom, Power and Glory



April 24 Easter Sunday

Grief, sorrow, and mourning are over. Through death, Christ has triumphed over death and now is alive as the new King who reigns in the Kingdom of God. When we say "Amen" we are agreeing together, "Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this."
