

# Lesson 9

## Fourth Petition - Give us this day our daily bread

**Bible Lesson:** Exodus 16:1-15,31

**Summary:** God daily provides for His children. After the Israelites had left their slavery in Egypt (sin), God took care of their daily needs by providing water and food (manna and quail). God's provision included clothes that never wore out. Notice the cross reference in Matthew 6:24-34.

**Memory Verse:** And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?" *Matthew 6:25*

**Catechism Student Memory Work:** The Fourth Petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

**Catechism TM Reference:** *Luther's Small Catechism - What does this mean?*

God indeed gives daily bread to all men, even to the wicked, without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge our daily bread as His gift, and to receive it with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Everything that is required to satisfy bodily needs; such as food and raiment, house and home, fields and flocks, money and goods; pious parents, children, and servants; godly and faithful rulers, good government; seasonable weather, peace and health; order and honor; true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

## TEACHER PREPARATION

### Prepare to Teach

Help students understand that

- God provides us with our daily needs - the necessities of our body and our life on earth
- God cares for us

### Prepare Materials

- Bible, pencils, crayons or colored pencils.

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

### A. Introduction

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus instructed His disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." As we pray this petition, we are to pray that God "would lead us to acknowledge our daily bread as His gift, and to receive it with thanksgiving." (Luther's Small Catechism) In this, our first lesson on the fourth petition we look at an example of God miraculously providing physical food for the Israelites during their years of wandering in the wilderness following the exodus from Egypt.

### B. Prayer Preparation

1. Thank the Lord that He provides you with the daily needs of your life, especially the food you need.
2. Ask the Lord to help you to be content with what He gives you.

### C. Bible Study

Exodus 16:1 begins, "Then they set out from Elim." "They" are the Israelites. About 1 month has transpired since the Israelites crossed the Red Sea when they began their journey from Egypt to the "promised land" of Canaan under the leadership of Moses. The Israelites had been living in Egypt for 430 years, ever since Jacob had traveled there to avoid the famine that was plaguing the land of Canaan. At that time he had been reunited with his son Joseph, who Jacob thought had been long dead, but whom the Lord had sent ahead of him into Egypt so that the family of Jacob would be provided for when famine came upon the land of Canaan (See Genesis 45:4-7). God had made a promise to Jacob before he had left Canaan to journey to Egypt that his family would one day return to the land of Canaan (see Genesis 46:4). Canaan had been the place that Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, had settled in as the land that God had promised him and his heirs (see Genesis 12:1-7). God was now fulfilling the promise that He had made to Jacob to return his family to Canaan. Under the leadership of Moses, the Israelites had fled from Egypt on the night of the "Passover", and they had escaped from the pursuit of the Egyptian army as God had miraculously parted the waters of the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:27 states that Elim was a place "where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms." It was an oasis in the Sinai Peninsula desert where the Israelites had found rest and refreshment during their journey to the "promised land." Elim, however, was not their final destination. We are told in Exodus 16:1, "Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin." God led the people out from the oasis that they had enjoyed into the "wilderness of Sin" – a desert region. Here there were no springs of water, there were no date palm trees, or any other sources of food. As a result, Exodus 16:2 states, "The whole congregation...grumbled against Moses and Aaron," because of the lack of food in the desert.

In verse 4 we see that the Lord heard the grumbling of the people against Moses, His anointed leader, and in spite of the fact that the people were grumbling against His anointed leader, the Lord saw fit to supply their need in a miraculous way. Exodus 16:4 and 12 state, "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold I will rain bread from heaven for you'...Tell them (the people), 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God'."

The Lord was promising to provide them, day by day, with the food that they needed. The Lord's promise was that each morning, except for the seventh day (the Sabbath day of rest)

when they went out there would be “bread from heaven” for them to collect and eat. The instruction was that they were only to collect what each family needed for that day. Any that the people kept overnight for the next day (except as the Lord had commanded concerning what they collected on the 6<sup>th</sup> day to be kept for the Sabbath day) would spoil.

The people of Israel were being taught a lesson about “daily” bread. They were to rely on the Lord to provide each day what they would need for that day. Looking back to verse 4 we read, “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.’” The provision of “daily” bread was a part of God’s testing of His people, as He said to Moses, “Whether or not they will walk in My instruction.”

We pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” In this way we show our dependence upon God to provide “day by day” for our needs, just as the Israelites were being tested concerning their “daily” dependence upon God in regard to the “bread from heaven” that He was providing.

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome with Love

God daily provides for His children. After the Israelites had left their slavery in Egypt (sin), God took care of their daily needs by

providing water and food (manna and quail). God's provision included clothes that never wore out. Notice the cross reference in Matthew 6:24-34.

## TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

### Pray the Message

Take time for all students who wish to pray out loud to do so and then you close.

wilderness

### Introduce the Message

God daily provides for His children. After the Israelites had left their slavery in Egypt (sin), God took care of their daily needs by providing water and food (manna and quail). God's provision included clothes that never wore out. Notice the cross reference in Matthew 6:24-34.

### Learn the New Words

supply

daily bread

Exodus

Moses

Israelites

Egypt

manna

wafers

quail

desert

### Read/Tell the Message

Have your students take turns reading today's lesson a paragraph at a time. Allow time for discussion. It must have been an incredible sight. You could bring in the video of "The Ten Commandments" for those visual learners.

### Reinforce the Message

**ASK:** When we pray for "daily bread" what are we praying for? not only bread to eat

but everything we need to live each day such as food, clothing, and shelter

**ASK:** What was the approximate number of people led out of Egypt in the Exodus? 2 million

**ASK:** What did God provide for them to eat? manna and quail

**ASK:** What does Deuteronomy 29:6 say that God did for them? kept their clothes and shoes from wearing out

**ASK:** What is our modern day reminder in Matthew 6:25? Look at the birds and flowers - they don't worry about their clothes and food and neither should we.

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Memorize the Bible Verse

This verse can be illustrated on a sack of coins. Or have students cut pictures of things from magazines to illustrate needs - i.e., food, clothing, shelter, love etc. Then

glue the verse across it for a take home reminder that God will provide.

Or use the memory verse activity in your material.

### Do the Activities Together

## CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

God daily provides for His children. After the Israelites had left their slavery in Egypt (sin), God took care of their daily needs by providing water and food (manna and quail). God's provision included clothes that never wore out. Notice the cross reference in Matthew 6:24-34.

### Pray Together

Let's use popcorn prayer or sentence prayers today to give thanks for every part of our daily bread.

## Prepare for Next Week

### Gather and Prepare Materials

- Bibles pencils, colored pencils,

### Prepare Lesson 10

*Begin your study and preparation with prayer.*

*Pray for each student daily by name.*

*Read the Bible text* Matthew 6:25-34

*Memorize the Bible verse:*

Psalm 107:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

*Read the Teacher Manual.*

Highlight, underline, and write in your own notes to help you teach Lesson 10.

## The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

A people freed from slavery, led by a cloud by day,  
Walked out in the desert, protected on their way.  
The people started to grumble, "Are we here to die?  
Can God really guide us and see us with His eye?"  
The Lord said, "I am the Lord your God, I will *supply* your needs,  
And as you eat and live, I will watch your deeds."  
Manna in the wilderness, quail from the skies,  
Water from the rock, clothing that never dies.  
Graciously *God* showed them that He really cared,  
Giving from His *riches*, lovingly He shared.  
As they walked about, many were their tears,  
Yet always God provided through *all* the forty years.

Do we see this witness of what God can do?  
See that God does love us, He cares for me and you.  
All the things on earth we need, He truly will provide.  
With grateful hearts we praise Him, as we on earth abide.  
His provision does not stop with food and clothes and water.  
His loving heart provided salvation in no other.  
The *needs* that are eternal, surely we should know  
These are more important, eternity will show.  
Have you gathered eternal "manna" *according* to your needs?  
Salvation is provided, by God's most loving deeds.  
Then, O what a *glory*, that eternal day you'll see,  
When with *Christ Jesus*, you will always be.

The story-poem above has hidden words that will fill in the blanks for your memory verse. Read the poem, and then look at the blanks below. Fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete the verse. (Clue: look for the words that are written in *italics*.) After you have filled in the blanks, hide the verse away in your heart.

And my God shall supply all your  
needs according to His riches  
in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

## Memory Verse

And my God shall *supply* all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:19*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** *Matthew 6:25*

In the space below, write a poem showing thankfulness to God for supplying all your needs.



**A  
P  
P  
L  
Y**

What does it mean when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread"? The box below explains the meaning of the Fourth Petition of The Lord's Prayer. It is taken from *Luther's Small Catechism*.

**God** indeed **gives daily bread** to all men, even to the wicked, without our prayer; but we pray in this petition **that He would lead us to acknowledge our daily bread as His gift,** and to receive it **with thanksgiving**

Read each question below. Then circle the KEY WORDS in the box above that help to explain the answer. Use a different colored pencil for each answer.

1. WHO provides for daily needs? (purple)
2. WHAT does God do for all men? (green)
3. WHY should we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread"? (blue)
4. HOW should we receive our daily bread? (red)