WEEK 8 — Daily Bread

February 28 • Matthew 6:11,31–34; John 15:4–5

MAIN POINT

God does not merely teach me to trust Him in crises; He teaches me to depend upon Him every day.

Aim: Move from crisis-only spirituality to ordinary, consistent abiding in Christ.

Primary NT: Matthew 6:11, 31–34; John 15:4–5

Supporting NT: John 6:31–35; Philippians 4:19

Key Doctrine: Abiding, dependence, spiritual formation

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use these questions and illustrations to introduce the topic and surface lived experience.

Would you rather have all you need for the next decade today or learn to trust God each day? We usually want a warehouse; God often supplies manna.

Transition: Read the New Testament passage before turning to the Moses illustration.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and what it means. Read the assigned passage before offering interpretation.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MATTHEW 6:11, 31–34; JOHN 15:4–5.

- What does “daily bread” tell us about time?
- What does Jesus say about tomorrow?
- What happens apart from Christ?
- What does abiding produce?

Movement 1 — Jesus teaches daily dependence

Connect: Matthew 6:11,31–34

Jesus teaches daily provision rather than a guarantee of total certainty. Israel could not hoard manna.

Apply: What are you worrying about tomorrow?

Leader explanation: The Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:11 trains disciples to request daily provision, not to secure advance control over tomorrow. Jesus then addresses anxiety in Matthew 6:25–34 by pointing to the Father’s knowledge and care.

Moses illustration: God provides manna daily in the wilderness (Ex 15:22-27, 16:1-31).

Movement 2 — Jesus Himself is Bread

Connect: John 6:35

We come to Christ not merely because He supplies needs but because He is our life.

Apply: Where are you searching for security outside Him?

Leader explanation: In John 6:31–35, Jesus compares the wilderness manna with the true bread from heaven. His claim to be the Bread of Life directs hearers to come to Him and believe in Him; devotional habits are means of fellowship, not substitutes for Christ.

Movement 3 — Abiding produces fruit

Connect: John 15:4–5

A branch bears fruit by remaining connected. Ministry flowing from communion differs from ministry replacing communion.

Apply: Build a sustainable daily "manna rhythm."

Leader explanation: John 15:4–5 depicts fruitfulness as dependence upon abiding in Jesus. The branch does not create life from itself. This teaching encourages consistent prayer, Scripture meditation, worship, and obedience while avoiding shame when practices are disrupted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why ask for bread daily?
- What is abiding?
- What does apart from Me mean?
- What else do you feed on for security?
- Why prefer dramatic crises to daily faithfulness?
- Are you living on yesterday's faith?
- What rhythm strengthens communion?
- What modest habit is sustainable?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the Scripture directly shapes their week. Invite a concrete response without pressuring anyone to disclose private circumstances.

- What truth about God do you most need to carry into this week?
- What do you need to start deepening your dependence?
- What do you need to stop to break an unhealthy allegiance?

PRAYER

Guided prayer: Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Supply today's grace. Teach me to abide and entrust tomorrow to You.

BETWEEN-WEEK PRACTICE

READ Matthew 6:9–13; Matthew 6:25–34; John 6:31–40; John 15:1–11; Philippians 4:10–20

DO / PRAY Use a "Manna Plan": same time, same place, small passage, short prayer, one act of obedience.

MEMORY VERSE John 15:5

COMMENTARY

Leader reference: Matthew 6:11,31–34; John 15:4–5

The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:11 trains disciples to request daily provision, not to secure advance control over tomorrow. Jesus then addresses anxiety in Matthew 6:25–34 by pointing to the Father's knowledge and care.

In John 6:31–35, Jesus compares the wilderness manna with the true bread from heaven. His claim to be the Bread of Life directs hearers to come to Him and believe in Him; devotional habits are means of fellowship, not substitutes for Christ.

John 15:4–5 depicts fruitfulness as dependence upon abiding in Jesus. The branch does not create life from itself. This teaching encourages consistent prayer, Scripture meditation, worship, and obedience while avoiding shame when practices are disrupted.

Teaching note: Avoid making this passage promise more than it says. Invite honest questions, attend to the context, and return the discussion to Jesus and the authority of Scripture.