

## Reflection Questions: Matthew 6:5-13

For the message, "Give Us Our Daily Bread" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 31, 2019

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **MATTHEW 6:5-13**

**5** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**7** "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this:

**"Our Father in heaven,** hallowed be your name.

**10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**11 Give us this day our daily bread,**

**12** and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Jesus tells us that our Father knows what we need before we ask him. So why do you think Jesus wants us to ask for something as mundane as our daily bread when both our Father and we know that we need it?
2. If the everyday act of eating is a small, good thing, and we should ask God to give us our daily bread, what does that tell us about the big, significant things in our lives? How does this help us understand our Father's care over the small and big things of our lives?
3. Someone has said, "Prayerlessness is our declaration of independence from God." Does that ring true with you? Why or why not?
4. Jesus is echoing a phrase from a prayer found in Proverbs 30: "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God" (30:8-9). How does this prayer resonate with you? What do you like or dislike about it? What does it teach us about human nature?
5. How does praying this prayer, "Give us our daily bread," help us pray for more than just ourselves and actually help us focus on the needs of others?
6. How is this phrase in the prayer invite us to participate in a community that exists for something greater than our own wants and needs? In other words, what might God want to do in and through us for the sake of our city?