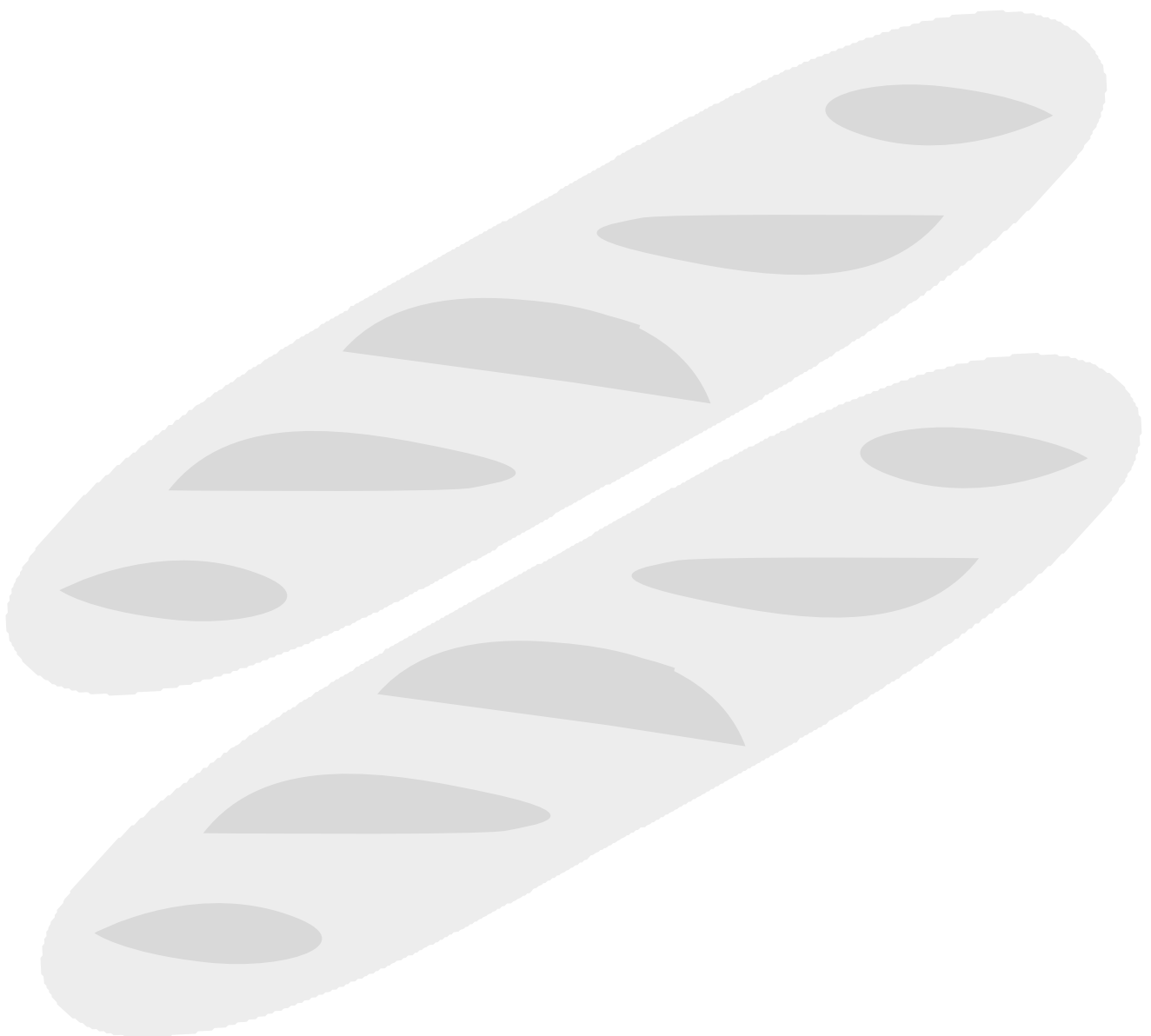


PRAYER

Dear Lord, would you guide our minds and hearts today as we reflect on your daily provisions for us, in the practical and in the spiritual.

ACTIVITY/ICE BREAKER

Take a moment to reflect on your needs, write these in and around the loaves of bread.



VIDEO

Watch video 3: Daily bread

READ

Luke 11: 1-13 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: “‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.” So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

REFLECTIONS

There is perhaps a sense of trust and humility about our saying the Lord’s prayer. The phrase ‘daily bread’ refers not only to bread, or even food, but all that we need. It reminds us that we are dependant and vulnerable. There are many stories in the Bible about people being fed by God. The Israelites received vital manna in Exodus 16, as they crossed the desert. Elijah was fed by ravens in 1 Kings 17, in a time of drought. Later in that chapter, when a poor widow used all her food to feed Elijah she found that her limited supply of flour and oil never ran out. Her selfless generosity led to unexpected resources. As she went on sharing kindness, so she was fed herself. Jesus refused to make bread for himself when tempted to do so, but not long after he fed a huge crowd of people with not only bread, but fish too. And then he promised those people that he would be living bread for them. Perhaps the request for daily bread not only means physical food, but the presence of the Living Bread as well. Jesus is with us through each day’s ups and downs. This prayer also reminds us we are a part of a global faith. About 2 billion others will say the Lord’s prayer today around the world. This is not an individualistic faith. But one shared. Just as we share bread. An invitation and expectation that we will, unlike the fig tree, produce good, lasting fruit. With this in mind, here is a short reflective reading.

SUSTENANCE

He took bread and wine and said eat and drink and remember
Remember the man who made bread and wine for others
Remember the man who poured himself out
He took bread and wine and said eat and drink and remember
Remember the man, his life, death and new life
His compassion, laughter, courage, vulnerability, integrity, hope,
tears and honesty
He took bread and wine and said eat and drink and remember
Remember the stories he told and the people he met
The unlikely friends he made and the generous welcome he gave
He took bread and wine and said eat and drink and remember
Remember the fresh start, the new life, the chance to start again
Remember the invitation, remember the reason, remember and
look forward
He took bread and wine and said eat and drink and remember.

QUESTIONS

1. Listening to Corrie & Betsie's story of God's provision in a concentration camp from the video, what stood out for you?
2. God's provision to us is not only in the physical, how have you experienced his presence with you?
3. Reflecting on today's passage and readings, how might God be providing for you and your needs? How is he speaking into the needs you identified in and around the loaves of bread?
4. How can we be proactive in sharing the blessing of His presence with those around us? How might we produce good and lasting fruit?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for your goodness to us. Thank you for your guidance for us. Teach us to pray and remember your gift to us.