

Our Heavenly Father

Matthew 6:24 - 34

Devotional Reading: Ephesians 1:3 - 10

Background Scripture:

Exodus 34:4 - 7; Psalm 103:10 - 14; Isaiah 40:27 - 31

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- Summarize the totality of God's provision for the needs of all creation
- Explain how to trust God in order to be free from worries
- Make a plan for serving to meet the basic needs of people in the community

INTRODUCTION: God has made provision for the needs of mankind. Yet, the desire for and willingness to pursue materialism in American culture have reached record levels. Wealth challenges God for the primacy of the human heart. The contest between mammon and God is present in the conflict between storing up treasure for self and trusting God for your daily needs [Matthew 19:21. This passage sets the standard for kingdom citizens. Jesus teaches that the first step to overcome worry is to place our confidence entirely in God's provision.

KEY VERSE: ³⁴ *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*
Matthew 6:34

LESSON OUTLINE:

Serve or Despise the Father?

Matthew 6:24

Worry or Trust the Father?

Matthew 6:25 - 32

Kingdom Living

Matthew 6:33 - 34

SUMMARY: Worry is a popular and overrated pastime. It can't change outcomes; it doesn't change situations. The only way to travel through the affairs of life is to choose the better of life's choices. Instead of worrying, trust God. Jesus said that worrying about things which are beyond our control is futile. Make God your priority. He will take care of you.

QUESTIONS:

1. *In what ways can we grow in faith to trust in God's provision? How do you balance faith in God and personal responsibility in this regard?*
2. *How can we balance focusing on "things above" with the need to pursue justice and righteousness in the world? In what ways do Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:13 - 16; Acts 20:32 - 35; and James 1:27 inform your response?*

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DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
Mon., Dec. 8 th	The Father's Compassion	Isaiah 49:13 - 17
Tue., Dec. 9 th	The Father Seeks Authentic Worshippers	John 4:20 - 24
Wed., Dec. 10 th	The Father strengthens the Powerless	Isaiah 40:27 - 31
Thurs., Dec. 11 th	The Father Exacts Discipline	Isaiah 64:1 - 8
Fri., Dec. 12 th	The Father Blesses and Forgives	Psalms 103:1 - 18
Sat., Dec. 13 th	The Father Gives Perfect Gifts	James 1:13 - 18
Sun., Dec. 14 th	The Father Cares for Our Needs	Matthew 6:24 - 34