

A LIFE THAT ALWAYS PRAYS "OUR DAILY BREAD"

PLACE: Have it at a coffee shop - bonus if small group can arrange a discount or buy everyone a free coffee or pastry. If not a coffee shop think Panera or a place with a community table where you can eat at a table together.

EAT & DISCUSS (15 MINUTES): Eat together and as you eat ask what are ways God has provided for you? Ask your small group to give you a specific story, not just a generic answer.

READ DEUTERONOMY 6:1-12

SMALL GROUP SERVANT READ: If we were honest, our situation is not so different from our Old Testament ancestors. We too have been free from slavery; slavery to sin. We have been brought into a kingdom with all kinds of good things that we did not build, fruit from vineyards we did not plant, and salvation that we could never earn. We've been given so much more than just our daily bread. At the same time, Moses spoke these words to a people who were wandering in wilderness and hoping for a Promised Land. We often find ourselves in the same (in between) space. We can thank God for so many blessings and yet our hearts wait and wonder what God will do with our hopes that have been deferred in the form of prayers yet to be answered. As we gather, surely each of us has much to be grateful for and much that we still desire. Let's go to God in prayer for our daily bread. Since the theme is food, we'll pray 'popcorn style.' Each of you can offer two short prayers when you feel prompted. One prayer should be a line or two of thanksgiving and praise for what God has provided. The other prayer should be a line or two about a hope that has yet to be met. This will be a time of joy and sorrow. This will also be a time of intimacy as we get to hear how we each hunger after God. There will be some awkward silences and talking over one another. That's okay. Just be patient. Feel free to jump in when someone is done praying at any time and to pray multiple times if you like.

LEADER: Begin the prayer with praise and then shift the prayer at the halfway point after most have prayed their first prayer to prayers of wanting.

LEADER: END THE PRAYER WITH THIS PROMPT: Lord, help us to remember this place of prayer whenever we ask you to "Give us this day our daily bread." We marvel at all you have provided and we trust that you'll keep feeding us, your hungry children, exactly what we need when you think we need it.