

Dec 14, 2025



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

We don't speak to God as a slave but now have the freedom to use the intimate name Jesus used in His hour of desperate need, "Abba, Father"

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Gracious Father, thank You for being the one to whom I can call on in prayer anytime

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

(Rom 8:15 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 04, 2024)

**Series: Enduring Beliefs of
the Church**

**UNIT 1: Our God and the
Holy Scriptures**

NEXT WEEK

Christ the Savior
(Luke 15:3-7; Rom 5:6-10)

Our Heavenly Father Matt 6:24-34

Lesson Background and Introduction

Today's lesson text comes from a section of Jesus' teaching called the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7). In his record of Jesus' life, Matthew sometimes arranges the material in topical rather than chronological order. The Sermon on the Mount is a case in point. It is located early in Matthew's Gospel, but it was actually delivered during the first half of the second year of Jesus' ministry. Some commentators have called this second year of ministry Jesus' "year of popularity" because large crowds gathered wherever he went (Matthew 4:25). Matthew 6 begins with Jesus' warning about hypocrisy as one serves God in various ways. Then come instructions on prayer, fasting, and priorities. Today's lesson text continues Jesus' teaching on living a life that depends on a loving heavenly Father's gracious provision of all our needs. Luke 12:22-31 and 16:13 are parallel texts

All followers of Jesus can demonstrate the difference that living in the trust of a loving heavenly Father can make. Each of us has a sphere of influence that includes people to whom God seems far away. In some cases, this distance can become magnified during the Christmas season for various reasons. A change in people's understanding of God may not occur overnight through our efforts. Still, with patience and prayer, perhaps we can "pull back the curtain" and helping people see how much their Father really does love them. In this season, when we celebrate how God came near in a special way, perhaps in some small way, you can show someone around you, through your simple acts of kindness, that their Father has not forgotten them.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Trust and Serve the Father (Matt 6:24-29)

Trust and don't worry about physical things (24-26)

Food and other physical things do not bring us nearer to God, only our faith (1 Cor 8:8)

Even if we were to work and obtain many physical things, they are meaningless in terms of eternity (Eccl 2:21-23)

We must realize that our human appetite is never satisfied (Eccl 6:7)

As Jesus said, we do not live on bread alone (Luke 4:4)

In our physical toil, we must remember what is the most important between it and the words of Jesus (Luke 10:41-42)

We needn't worry about physical things because God has promised to provide for His righteous people (Prov 10:3)

Trust knowing the true meaning of life (27)

It is the Holy Spirit who gives life to the spirit (John 6:63)

God says that those who want to save their life must lose it in Him (Matt 16:25-26)

Life is a loss without God (Phil 3:7-8)

Jesus is the life of which everyone who gets it must come through Him (John 14:6)

God controls life, not man (Daniel 5:23)

Trust and don't worry about financial things (28-29)

We must learn to trust God with our finances and be content with our financial situation (1 Tim 6:6-10)

Financial things will forsake us, but Jesus never will forsake us (Heb 13:5)

Be careful of greed, our life does not consist of abundance (Luke 12:15)

By trusting God, He promises to bless us beyond our capacity (Mal 3:10)

By trusting God, He promises to make us rich in all the right ways (2 Cor 9:11)

Life Without Worry through Faith in the Father (Matt 6:30-34)

Faith in God because He is the ultimate provider (30-32)

The same God who supplies our physical needs is the same one that supplies our salvation (2 Cor 9:10)

God knows what we need before we ask Him (Matt 6:8)

God is more than able to provide all things at all times (2 Cor 9:8)

All wealth and strength comes from God (1 Chron 29:12)

Faith in God through seeking His Kingdom (33)

Seeking spiritual things

God's word is like spiritual food and therefore we need to ingest it daily (Heb 5:12-14)

We need to trust God by casting all our anxieties on Him (1 Peter 5:7)

Trust assumes faith (Luke 8:25)

God's grace is more than sufficient for us (2 Cor 12:9)

We needn't worry because God will not allow any temptation more than we can bear (1 Cor 10:13)

We need to trust God because our competence is only in Him (2 Cor 3:5)

In our time of need, we need to approach the throne of God (Heb 4:16)

Seeking heavenly value versus earthly value

Earthly things have no value because regardless of the amount accumulated, others will eventually reap the benefit (Ps 39:6)

Heavenly value is deliverance from eternal death whereas earthly value is worthless (Prov 11:4)

Heavenly values result in godly wisdom and understanding (Prov 16:16)

Earthly values are like chasing after the wind (Eccl 2:26)

Earthly values are never satisfying (Eccl 5:10)

Contentment is one of the virtues of heavenly values (Heb 13:5)

Remember that our citizenship is in heaven, not on earth (Phil 3:20)

Our hope is stored in Heaven (Col 1:5)

Our mind should be set on heavenly things, not only earthly things (Col 3:2)

Earthly values are uncertain, but heavenly ones have a Divine promise (1 Tim 6:17-19)

Faith in God regardless of troubles (34)

We need to enjoy daily life because we don't know what the next day will bring (Eccl 3:22)

We must only think of today because life is too short to worry about tomorrow (James 4:13-14)

Every man's days are full of trouble (Job 14:1)

Jesus showed us how to think of provisions and life – day by day (Matt 6:11)

It is only through God's great love and mercy that we are able to see another day (Lam 3:22-23)