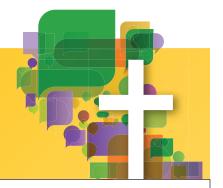
Hunger Catechism: Daily Bread



BIG IDEA: "Give us this day our daily bread": A world of abundance | Reading: John 6:32-35

Purpose

This lesson discusses the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther's interpretation, and how we can live out this statement with our neighbor. It also covers how hunger and poverty directly relate to the Lord's Prayer, as well as how we are called to create communities where all are fed.

Commandment and focus

FOURTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER: Give us this day our daily bread.

FOCUS QUESTION: How are we called to live, as people of faith, in a world of abundance?

Luther's lens (Small Catechism)

"God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksqiving."

Luther's explanation (Large Catechism)

"Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

Going further

We recite this line every week at church, "Give us this day our daily bread." But what is "daily bread?" As you can see in Luther's explanation, we are fed by more than just physical food.

QUESTION: What unexpected things does Luther include in his list of "daily bread"? Why are each of these important for our daily lives?

When we pray for our "daily bread," we trust that God has provided everything we need and that God has given us enough for everyone. One way to think about this is as "God's abundance." Abundance means more than enough. Often, it's easy to think that there isn't enough for everyone and that if one person gains another person must lose. This is called scarcity. As Christians, we are called to respond to claims of scarcity by preaching God's abundance.

How would you act if you thought there weren't enough basic necessities for everyone?

How would you act if you believed that God has provided our world with more than enough resources for everyone?



READING

JOHN 6:32-35

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

Scarcity often draws us into conflicts with our neighbors. Abundance, on the other hand, draws us toward more creative ways of sharing with each other. Abundance builds community; scarcity breaks it down.

Points to ponder

- + Have you ever felt like you had to hold on tightly to something that was yours? A game? A friend?
 - How did you feel at the time?
- * When have you shared something with someone in need?
- Look at Martin Luther's list of what "daily bread" is, then look at the reading. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven"?
- + How does your church help feed your congregation and the larger community?

The facts

- + The average adult requires **2,000 to 2,500 calories per day** to meet their nutritional needs.
- + The world produces enough food for every person to have *more* than 2,700 calories per day.
- + 1 in 9 people in the world is living with hunger (795 million people worldwide).

Make it matter

If the world produces enough food to meet every person's nutritional needs, then why is the rate of hunger so high? One of the many reasons for this problem is called "food waste." Food waste is the loss of food that was grown and produced but left uneaten.

- + 30–40 percent of all food produced in America is wasted.
- + **\$218 billion** is spent to grow, process, transport and dispose of food that is never eaten.
- * Reducing food waste by only 15 percent would be enough to feed more than **25 million Americans** a year.

Through a grant, ELCA World Hunger supports Campus Kitchens Project, a national nonprofit that equips high school and college student volunteers to create solutions to end hunger in their communities by recovering food that would be wasted. The students prepare and deliver meals to people, engage in conversation with their neighbors, plan menus, run community gardens and much more.

In 2016, ELCA World Hunger provided support to the Campus Kitchen at Augsburg University in Minnesota and to help launch a new Campus Kitchen at Augustana College in Illinois. Watch the video below and see the Augsburg Campus Kitchen in action.



PRAY

GOD'S ABUNDANCE

This week, give thanks for the many gifts God has given us and our neighbors. Pray that we may see a world where everyone can experience God's abundance here on earth.

Augsburg University— Campus Kitchen



Link to video: http://www.augsburg.edu/campuskitchen

Diving deeper

- + How do Campus Kitchens recognize and use God's world of abundance to help them serve?
- In what ways are the participants and the community members being fed?
- When discussing the solutions to end hunger, one of the leaders said, "Free food won't end hunger." What do you think that means?
- + How can we be involved in helping others know that God has created enough for all to be fed?

Brewing	questions
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What other questions come to mind after learning about Luther's interpretation of daily bread?	