

Home Groups | Week of February 28, 2016  
Sermon on the Mount | Matthew 6:25-34

**Ice Breaker Question:**

Jesus says do not worry in this passage. What is something that you tend to worry about?

**Read today's scripture [Matthew 6:25-34] and discuss:**

1. Why do you think that Jesus teaches not to worry about clothes, food, and other basic items? This seems so fundamental, why would Jesus focus on it?
2. Sometimes scarcity, or feelings of "not enough," can cause worry. What is the opposite of scarcity? If we lived in the "opposite of scarcity," would we worry less? What else might happen?
3. If God promises to feed and clothe his children, why are there so many who are hungry and have few clothes? How do you think this might impact their view of the world? Of others? Of God? What can we do to play a role with those who are hungry or hurting?
4. Why does Jesus say, "O you of little faith," in verse 30? What does worrying today about the uncertainty of tomorrow say about our faith in God?
5. What is one thing you can do in the coming week to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness?"
6. After saying to seek first God's kingdom, Jesus says that "all these things will be given to you as well." How have you seen evidence of God providing the basic necessities, food, clothing, shelter, for you? What is the connection for you between seeking God first and God providing for the necessities?

**Prayer:**

Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:

- > Prayers of healing for Pat Mundy, Pete Francois, and Hadley Lehr.

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**Reminders for your group:**

- > Lenten Worship Services | Wednesdays through March 23 | 7 am | Sanctuary
- > Service Project Idea: Groups are needed to set up a station for ZPC's Passion Walk on Sunday, March 20 after the 10:30 service. [Betsy Howden; betsyh@zpc.org; 317.873.8137x1010]
- > Join the ZPC Choir for Easter services. Rehearsal Mondays | 8 pm | Worship Arts Room. [Don Nieman; donn@zpc.org; 317.873.8137x1009]

**[Leader's Notes]**

It's so easy to worry. We can sometimes worry that we are worrying too much. But worry can stall us from action and more importantly can pull us away from putting our trust in God. Jesus teaches us again to put our trust in God, to seek first the Kingdom, and not to worry because God will provide the basic necessities of life that we need. Let's explore together how we can lift each other up to trust God more and worry less.

**[Question 1]** The simple answer must be that we are simple creatures and need to be told not to worry. We should not worry about money, clothes, shelter, food, and the basics. God will provide what we need.

**[Question 2]** The opposite of scarcity is the idea that we do have enough. Paul spoke of being content in all circumstances (Philippians 4:12), because he could do all things through Christ who gave him strength (Philippians 4:13). Being content in all things brings peace, joy, and a trust in God.

**[Question 3]** Jesus said the poor will always be with us (Matthew 26:11), yet we are not to just accept that poverty is OK. Being extremely poor can make some doubt God's existence, or make others even more dependent on God. If we can serve the poor in a healthy way, it can show others that God cares for them – we can actually represent God in a real and compassionate way. It can change our hearts too as we realize that God can use us.

**[Question 4]** If God can take care of birds in the air and grass in the fields, he can certainly care for us in our basic needs of food and clothes. So we should have faith. Worrying about the things of tomorrow can rob us of seeing God at work – rob us of seeing God as real.

**[Question 5]** During this season of Lent, we can practice spiritual disciplines, such as reciting the Lord's Prayer, fasting, and practicing how to care for others in tangible ways. By focusing on Jesus first, we can worry less, and be more in tune with God's plan.

**[Question 6]** As we pray for God to provide, and then trust that he will provide, we can see God. Then, we need to actively look for evidence of God at work in us and around us. If we pray, trust, and look for God, we will see God.