

LEADER OVERVIEW - FEBRUARY WEEK 2

Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Objective: For Young Adults to trust God to provide exactly what they need and to seek His Kingdom as a result.

Text Overview: Jesus illustrates through the natural creation design how believers can seek God's Kingdom and trust Him instead of worrying about their life. In the same way God provides for the birds of the air and for the flowers of the field, He will provide exactly what we need. We can trust Him.

Text Explanation: We can understand a lot of who God is through studying what He has created. Jesus appeals to this truth. His audience is full of people who have been trained by a culture to worry about what they need. This is before dependable grocery stores or clothing companies. Virtually everyone lived in fear of the future. Jesus knows this fear and worry harden the hearts of his audience from hearing and receiving the gospel (as seen in the parable of the soils). When his audience is focused on tending to their every need and worrying about what will happen tomorrow, they have no mental space to take in the gospel or to seek God's Kingdom. Jesus shows them through birds and flowers how they can center their lives on God's Kingdom, and He will take care of the rest. *The Gentiles* don't understand this because they do not know God. Their fundamental belief is *I am ultimately in control of my life and responsible for my well-being*. In reality, the truth is *God takes care of His people*. This is why Jesus notes that his audience is of "little faith." Their little faith, or trust in God, is what can and will lead them to seek His Kingdom. This passage also highlights how deeply God cares about people. He is willing to put the effort in to provide the needs of *every* person who seeks Him.

Discussion Instructions: To seek God's Kingdom means to get to know Him more and to focus on what is important to His heart. It means the time we get alone with God to ask Him what He is doing and what is important to Him. It is the actions we take to see God's Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven. Seeking God means worshipping Him. Seeking God means giving generously or serving someone. Seeking His Kingdom *first* means to put Him and His Kingdom as our top priority. Rather than centering our life on food, or clothing, or job security, God wants our purpose to be living for Him—knowing that once our focus is on Him, He will provide everything else we need.

Question 4 is open ended and challenging for a reason. This is a natural question floating in the reader's mind, and it is a very difficult one. There are different perspectives on this issue, but don't avoid the tension of believing in Christ while pain and suffering still ravage the world we live in. One perspective is that God promises to give us exactly what we need to accomplish His will. You can listen to this perspective more at <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/does-god-promise-to-feed-and-clothe-christians>. Hopefully, more than anything, this question encourages Young Adults to respond by trusting God and doing something about the injustices in our world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - FEBRUARY WEEK 2

Read: Matthew 6:25-34

1. What is the difference between worry and concern?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how much worry are you carrying right now and what about?
3. How does Jesus want to shape our relationship with God through this passage?
4. What about people who die of starvation in poverty? Does God provide for their needs?
5. What does it mean to seek the Kingdom first? How can you do that this week?

